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DAVIDEIS.

THE
LIFE
OF
DAVID

KING of *Israel*:
A
SACRED POEM:
In Five BOOKS.

By THOMAS ELLWOOD, *K.*

Scribimus Indocti Doctique Poemata—Horat.

LONDON:

Printed and Sold by the Assigns of J. Baskin, in
White-Hart-Court in Gracious-Street, 1712.

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RECORDED

In Five Books.

By THOMAS ELWOOD,

—Hauptstadt: Berlin—

1040

1 and 2 by the Agent of J. Cantale in
the Court in Green Street 1914

TO THE
READER.

WHEN first I began the following Poem, I was so far from thinking of the Press; that I aimed no farther than to describe, and that for my own Diversion only, The Monomachie, or Single Combat, between the Giant and the Stripling, great Goliah and little David.

After I had, in such Sort as it is, performed that, I was drawn on, insensibly as it were, to set forth the Noble Friendship, which, upon the great Atchievement of David's, was

contracted between Prince Jonathan and Him: with the Effects of both, the Advancement of David to Places of Honour, Trust and Power, and his brave discharge thereof, in the Service of his King and Country. Which, as it gained him the great Love of the People, so it procur'd him the high Displeasure of the King: and, as Consequent thereof, the Troubles he afterwards went through.

Having attended him so far in his Prosperity and Greatness, I could not find in my Heart, methought, to leave him in his Adversity and depressed State: but accompanying him through his Sufferings under Saul, I waited on him, till I had seen him fairly settled on the Throne of Israel.
There

To the Reader.

V

There again I made a Stand, as willing to have made that the Bound of my Undertaking. But after I had paus'd awhile; look'd back, and view'd the Steps I had taken; observ'd from what a low Beginning, through what extream Difficulties and Hardships, to what a towring Pitch of Height and Glory our Hero was advanced: and considered also, how soon this Great and Mighty Monarch, this Excellent Man, through a suddain Temptation of Lust, excited by the alluring Bait of Beauty, fell into those gross and hainous Sins of Adultery and Murther; I could not forbear to display that Part of his Life also, as foreseeing there might some useful Remarks be made thereon, which might be of Service

to caution others. *Wherefore, running hastily over the former Part of his Reign, and but lightly touching, in a general way, his Wars and Martial Enterprizes; I entred, as directly as I well could, upon the foul Story of fair BATH-SHEBA: and, as consequent thereof, the contrived Death of her abused Husband, the brave and valiant U-RI-AH. Which, with the better Account of David's eminent Sorrow for it, Repentance of it, Recovery from it, and Restoration to the Favour of God again, closes the Third Book.*

There, indeed, I was forc'd to make another Stop; which I thought would have proved a full Stop: for it lasted more than Twenty Years. The

Poem

Poem was begun, and so far carried on (Excepting only the First Chapter of the First Book) in the Year 1688. When The Prince of Orange landing, and the Nation being in Arms; the Noise of Guns, and Sounds of Drums and Trumpets so affrighted, and disturbed my peaceful Muse, that both She, for a while, forsook me, and I thereupon the Work. Save that, upon a Review, some time after, observing how abruptly David was brought in: that he might not look like one of the Knights Errand of Old, rushing into a Fray with his Beavor down, that none could know either who he was, or whence he came, I added the First Chapter; thereby beginning the Story a little higher,

higher, that I might introduce my Hero with somewhat the more Advantage.

There it rested, without any Prospect of its ever going further, until the last Winter. When, having less Health, and more Leisure, than at some times before; I took it up, for an Entertainment, to make some uneasie Hours pass somewhat less uneasily over. And after I had read it through, considering with my self, that if, after my Death, being found amongst my loose Papers, it should be committed to the Press; it could pass for, at best but an imperfect, or unfinish'd Piece: I found an Inclination of Mind, to carry on the Story, if I could, to the End of David's

*my David's Life. Wherefore giving a
Ad- kind Invitation to my gentle Muse to
return (who, by some short Visits, on
particular Occasions, in the Interval,
ro- had given me some Ground to hope, she
ntil had not quite abandoned me) I entred
less again upon the Subject, where I had
at left off; and by Degrees went through
an it, till I had brought my warlike
un- Hero to his peaceful Grave.
ea-*

*After it was finished, deliberating
about the Publishing of it; as whe-
ther to Publish it my self, or leave
it, as a Posthume, to be published
uld (if thought fit) by some kind Hand,
uld after my Death: the Reasons, which
ect, turn'd the Ballance for present Print-
In- ing were; First, that, at present the
the Prefs is open: which possibly may
of here-
d's*

To the Reader.

hereafter be shut. And Secondly, That if, upon the Publication of it, MOMUS should Carp (which he is but too apt to do, even where there is less Occasion for it) I might be at hand, ready my self to Answer his Cavils; who, if any Cause be given for them, gave it: though assuredly without any Intention so to do.

Till I had wholly finished, and transcribed also, this Poem; I had not had the Opportunity of perusing the Learned COWLEY'S DAVIDEIS; though I had heard of it, and, I think, had once a transient Sight of it, before I began this. Since I have read it through, with my best Attention: and am very well pleas'd, that I had not read it before: lest his great Name,

Name, high Stile, and lofty Fancy should have led me, though unawares, into an apish Imitation of them; which doubtless would have look'd very odly, and ill in me, how admirable soever in him.

His Aim and mine differ widely: the Method of each no less. He wrote for the Learned; and those too of the Upper Form: and his Flights are answerable. I write for common Readers; in a Stile familiar, and easie to be understood by such. His would have needed (if he had not added it) a large Paraphrase upon it; to Explain the many difficult Passages in it. Mine, as it has none, will not, I hope, need any.

I have

I have the same Aim in this, the same Inducement to it, as I had in writing the Sacred History of both the Old and the New Testament, viz. To invite, and endeavour to draw all, the Youth especially, of either Sex, to improve their Time and Studies; by employing both in reading better Books, written on better Subjects, than too many of them too often do.

*I am not so wholly a Stranger to the Writings of the most Celebrated Poets, as well Antient as Modern, as not to know, that the great Embellishments of their Poems consist mostly in their extravagant, and almost boundless Fancies; Amazing, and even Dazeling Flights; Luxurious Inventions; Wild Hyper-
ble's;*

To the Reader.

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ble's ; Lofty Language : *with an*
Introduction of Angels, Spirits,
Dæmons, and their respective Dei-
ties, &c. *Which, as not suitable to*
my Purpose, I industriously abstain
from.

In a Word, I am not so vain to
seek Applause : I don't expect to be
commended. If Critics, on the one
hand ; and Carpers, on the other, will
give me leave to pass the Streets
quietly, without Quarrelling, or
Jost'ling : 'tis all I ask at their
Hands. I don't affect the Title of
Poet. Let 'em call me, in that re-
spect, what they please. The Learn-
ed, and good Natur'd, will, I hope,
be Favourable in their Censures:
The Ignorant and Crabbed I regard
not.

not. I am more modest, than to expect Admission amongst the best Poets: and yet think it a little below me to be Ranked with the very worst Nec Suffænus sum, nec inscribere Praxitelem. I am content to walk

* In Medio Virtus: if I may be allowed
Medio Tutissimus ibis. in the * middle Way

where the safest Walking is, and where I shall be sure to find V E R T U E: than whom I desire no better Company.

D A

DAVIDEIS.

BOOK I.

CHAPTER I.

I Sing the Life of David, Israel's King.

*Assist, thou sacred Pow'r, who did'st him bring
From the Sheepfold, and set him on the Throne;
Thee I invoke, on Thee Rely alone.*

*Breath on my Muse; and fill her slender Quill
With thy refreshing Dews from Hermon-Hill:
That what she Sings may turn unto thy Praise,
And to thy Name may lasting Trophies raise.*

After King Saul had (by the Sin he wrought
In *Amalek*) divine Displeasure brought
Upon himself, and so the Lord provok'd
Though his Offence he with Religion cloak'd).

1 Sam.
15.

A

That

1 Sam. 15. That God of his *Promotion* did repent,
 And, in *Decree*, the Kingdom from him rent;
 Whilst the good Prophet, on his mournful String,
 Bewail'd the *Downfal* of the late made King:
 God to him did his sacred Herald call
 (*Samuel*, by whom he had Anointed *Saul*,)

1 Sam. 16. And said, How long for *Saul* do'st mean to mourn
 Up, quickly fill with sacring Oyl thy Horn.
 To Bethlehemitish *Jesse* I intend
 Thee, on a special Errand strait to send:
 For I, among his Sons, provided have
 A King, who shall my People Rule and Save.

Though to the Prophet it was fully known,
 That God had *Saul* determin'd to Dethrone,
 And raise Another (for himself did bring
 From God th' unwelcome Sentence to the King:)
 Yet did this dang'rous Errand him surprize;
 And, struck with Fear, How can I go! he cries
 If jealous *Saul* should of the Bus'ness hear,
 My Head must pay for mine Offence, I fear.

The Lord, a *gracious Master*, who well knew 1 Sam.
16.
That the good Prophet's Heart was *right* and *true*;
And that his *Fear* from *Frailty* did arise,
A fair *Expedient* for him did devise.
Go, go, said he, an Heifer with thee take;
And say, I come a Sacrifice to make
Unto the Lord: Call *Jesse* thereunto;
And I will shew thee what thou then shalt do.
Go, without Fear of any, but of me:
And him Anoint, whom I shall shew to thee.

Away went *Samuel*. And, to *Bethl'em* come,
Conven'd the Elders of the Place; on whom
A trembling fell, for fear some great Disaster
Had fallen out, which thither drew the Master.
Wherefore they ask'd him, If he came *in Peace*.
He answer'd, *Yes*: their Fears did quickly cease.
He told them then, He came to hold a Feast
Unto the Lord (that Love might be increas'd
Among them.) Bid them hast, and sanctifie
themselves, that to the Feast they might draw nigh.

1 Sam.
16.

Then unto *Jesse's* House the Prophet went,
Upon his special Errand most intent.
And when, amongst his Sons, he *Eliab* spy'd;
Strait, This is He, within himself he cry'd.
For *Eliab* was the eldest Son, a tall
Young Man, and fit, he thought, to follow *Saul*.
Therefore he said, Surely, *The Lord's Anointed*
Is now before him: This hath he appointed.

But God thus check'd him. Look not at the Face
Nor *outward* Stature: but the *inward* Grace.
Think not that I, as Man, see: Th' outward Part
He looks upon; but *I regard the Heart*.
This Check made *Samuel* wary. He no more
Consults his Reason, as he did before.
But when old *Jesse* had before him set
Sev'n of his Sons, all proper Persons; yet
The Prophet, to his Guide now keeping close,
Told him, The Lord had chosen none of those.

And are here all? said *Samu'el*. No, said he;
There is one more, the youngest: Cannot we

Go on without him? He my Flocks doth keep: ^{-1 Sam.}
 And is from Home, at present, with my Sheep. _{16.}

No, no, said *Samu'el*; send, and fetch him Home:
 For we will not sit down until he come.

Strait to the Field a Messenger doth run,
 To fetch home *David*, *Jesse's* youngest Son.
 Whom, come, he makes before the Prophet stand.
 Until he had receiv'd the Lord's Command.
 That quickly came. The Lord said, This is he:
 Anoint him. *Samuel*, with bended Knee,
 Takes up his Horn; and on young *David's* Head,
 The Consecrating Oyl doth freely shed.

From that Day forward, upon *David* came
 The Spirit of the Lord; which might proclaim.
 To well-discerning Eyes, his Unction: as
 Of *Saul's* Rejection a sure Token 'twas,
 That the good Spirit did from him depart;
 And to an evil Spirit left his Heart.

1 Sam.
16.

This evil Spirit *from the Lord* is said
On *Saul* to come : And it such *Trouble* made
To *Saul*, and all his Servants ; that they thought
The best Expedient was, there should be sought
Some *skilful* Man, who on his *Harp* might play ;
And drive that Spirit, for the time, away.
This they propose. He shews a ready Mind
To try it : bids them such an *Harper* find.
One mention'd *David* ; whom he thus set forth :
A cunning Player, and a Man of Worth ;
Valiant and Wise ; a comely Person ; One
To whom the Lord had special Favour shown.

This tickled *Saul*. To *Jesse* strait he sent
Some Messengers to fetch him. *David* went :
And with him *Bread*, *Wine* and a *Kid* did bring
A *Present*, from his Father, to the King.

His Office is assigned him, to stand
Before the King ; and with a skilful Hand,
When *Saul* was troubled, on his *Harp* to play.
He did so : th' evil Spirit went away.

This made him dear to *Saul*. *Saul* quickly found ^{1 Sam.}
The *Benefit*, which did to him redound _{16.}
From the sweet *Harper's* Musick. For the sake
Whereof, he did him *Armor-Bearer* make.
A Martial Office 'twas, to bear the *Sheild*
Of *Saul*, when he should march into the Field.
Which shews, he found *David* as well could wield
His Arms (a *Lance*, or *Spear*, and massy *Sheild*)
And thereby, if Occasion were, defend
His Person, and, in need, due Succour lend:
As softly strike upon the tuneful String;
And thereby give *Refreshment* to the King.
Wherefore, unwilling *David* should go back,
Lest he too soon his Ministry might lack;))
He sent again to *Jesse*, to request
That, with his leave, he might be longer blest
With *David's* Service: that he might be freed
From his Distemper. *Jesse* soon agreed,

C H A P. II.

While *Saul* yet Reign'd (altho' by God rejected
Because he had the *Lord's Command* neglected

^{1 Sam.}
^{17.} The *Philistins*, with a puissant Host,
Made an Invasion upon *Judah's Coast*.
Whom to repel, King *Saul* (when he it knew)
The Men of *Israel* together drew.

Upon two *Hills* the Warlike Camps were seen
A *Valley* lying in the midst between.
Each Army standing in Battalia rang'd,
Before a Stroke, on either side, was chang'd ;
From out the Camp of *Philistins*, behold,
There issu'd forth a *Champion*, proudly bold,
Upon his scouling Brow fate fuming Wrath ;
His Name, *Goliath* ; and his City, *Gath*.
In height he was *six Cubits and a Span* :
Rather, indeed, a Monster, than a Man.

Upon his Head a *Pot* of Brass he ware,
Too great for any Head, but his, to bear.
And in a *Coat* of *Mail* he was array'd,
That of fine Brass, *five Thousand* Shekels weigh'd.
His Shoulders did a brazen *Target* bear.
And on his Legs he *Greaves* of Brass did wear.
The *Staff* too of his *Spear* full well might seem,
For Bigness, to have been a *Weaver's Beam*.
The only *Head* whereof ('tis strange to say)
Six Hundred Shekels did, of Iron, weigh.
Before him went his *Squire*, who bore his Sheild;
Too great for any, but himself, to weild.

1 Sam.
17.

Come within hearing of the Camp of *Saul*,
To *Israel's* Armies he aloud did call;
And to this purpose spake, ' What need ye try
' The Fortune of a Battle? Am not I,
' A *Philistin*? You, Servants unto *Saul*?
' Choose you a Man, the Stoutest of you all;
' If he be able me, in Fight, to slay;
' Then we henceforth will your Commands obey:

' But

^{1 Sam.}
^{17.} ‘ But if, in single Combat, I prevail,
‘ And kill him; you to serve us shall not fail.
‘ Come, shew your Courage: Let it now appear,
‘ Ye have, at least, one Man, that’s *void of Fear*,
‘ All *Israel*’s Armies I, this Day, defie:
‘ Give me a Man, that may my Prowess try.

Thus, forty Days together, did he brave
The *Israelites*; yet none an Answer gave.
For *Saul* himself was terribly afraid;
And the whole Host of *Israel* fore dismay’d.

While thus this *Son of Earth* did proudly vaunt,
And, with his Looks, an Host of *Hebrews* daunt;
It so fell out, or rather God so wrought,
That little *David* to the Camp was brought:
David, old *Jesse*’s Son, the Ephrathite,
Fitter, in shew, to follow Sheep, than Fight.

Sev’n other Sons had *Jesse*: Eight in all.
: Three of the Eldest served under *Saul*.

To see how well they far'd, and how things went, ^{1 Sam.}
The good old Man his Youngest, *David*, sent, ^{17.}
Not empty-handed. *David* early rose,
And to the Camp, with Viſuals laded, goes:
Yet not without providing One to keep,
Till he came back again, his Father's Sheep.

Just as the Host, to fight, was going out,
And, for the Signal, did, to Battle, shout;
Came *David* to the Trench: With haſt he ran
To find his Brethren, e'er the Fight began.
And, as with them he talking ſtood, anon
Came forth the *Philistin's* bold *Champion*,
Enclos'd in Braſs; and, with an hideous Cry,
Denounc'd his *Challenge* then, as formerly.
At ſight of whom, a Sight that carried Dread,
The Men of *Iſra'el* to their Trenches fled.

No ſooner heard young *David* the Deſy,
But brave *Diſdain* did ſparkle in his Eye.
His *Mettle* roſe; his Breſt with *Courage* ſwell'd:
He ſcarce himſelf, from falling on, with-held.

That

1 Sam. 17. That Spirit which, from God, upon him came
At his *Anointing*, now doth more enflame
His Heart with holy Zeal; and doth him bear
Above the sense of *Danger*, and of *Fear*.
He could not brook, That one, *Uncircumcis'd*,
Defying *Israel*, should go unchastiz'd.
He talk'd with one: he turn'd him to another
(Not daunted with the Snibs of's eldest Brother)
He let them, both by Word and Gesture, know,
He durst again the great *Goliath* go.

The Rumor of him reach'd the Royal Tent.
And from the King a Messenger was sent,
To bring him to him. In he nimbly stept,
And said, O King, *The Challenge I accept*.
Let no Man's Heart him fail: for, in the might
Of God, I with this *Philistin* will Fight.

Alas! said *Saul* (when he observ'd the Lad,
A Shepherd-Swain, all in Sheep's Russet clad)
To fight with him thou art too weak by far;
Thou but a *Youth*; and he a *Man of War*.

Put Fear away, O King, the Youth reply'd

1 Sam.
17.

He is not weak who hath God on his side.

Fear the God of *Isra'el*, and have found,

Young tho' I am, his Strength, in need, abound.

Thy Servant slew a *Lyon*, and a *Bear*,

That, from my Father's Flock, a Lamb did tear.

And, since this *Philistin* hath, in his Pride,

The Armies of the Living God defy'd;

Th' Uncircumcised *Wretch* no more shall be,

Than was the *Lyon*, or the *Bear*, to me.

The Lord, who from the Bear's and *Lyon's* Paw

Did me preserve, because I lov'd his Law;

Will, I believe, since in his *Fear* I stand,

Preserve me out of this great *Lubber's* Hand.

The King amaz'd, yet glad withal, to find,

In such a Straight, so well-resolv'd a Mind,

Gives his Consent, and prays the Lord to bless

His little Combatant with great Success.

Himself, with his own Armour, *David* arms,

To render him the more secure from Harms.

Upon

1 Sam. 17. Upon his *Head* an *Helmet* he doth put
Of massy *Brass*, through which no *Sword* could cut
Then loads him also with a *Coat of Mail*,
Which, having oft been try'd, did never fail.
On all this *Gear* his *Sword* did *David* gird;
Then try'd to go: As soon as e'er he stir'd,
He too unweildy was, he found, to move;
Nor durst he fight in *Arms* he did not prove.
Saul's Armour therefore *David* did refuse.
Who fights for God must not Man's Weapons use.
Wherefore *Saul's Armour* leaving in his *Tent*,
He took his *Staff* in's *Hand*, and out he went,
His *Sling* in t'other *Hand*: and, as he goes,
He *five smooth Stones*, out of the *Valley*, chose,
Opens his *Scrip*, and puts the *Stones* therein;
And then draws near unto the *Philistin*.

The *Gyant*, rolling round his gogling *Eyes*,
At length the little *Hebrew* coming spies.
At whom his haughty *Breast* with *Scorn* did swell
And with such *Words* as these, he on him fell.

‘ Am I a Dog, thou despicable Boy, 1 Sam. 17.
 That thus thou com’st, with Staves, ~~me~~ to annoy?
 Come hither, Sirrah, and thy Flesh, for Meat,
 I’ll give unto the Fowls, and Beasts to eat
 Then by his Gods (what could he mention worse!)
 He belches out an execrable Curse,
 With such a *Din*, as made the Valley shake,
 And Beasts themselves unto their *Dens* betake.

When he had ended, *David* did begin;
 And thus accosted the Proud *Philistin*.

‘ Thou com’st to me with *Sword*, & *Sheild*, & *Spear*.
 But I to thee come in the *Name*, and *Fear*
 Of God, the Lord of *Hosts*, by thee defy’d,
 The God of *Isra’el*, to chastize thy *Pride*.
 This Day will God into my hand thee put,
 And from thy *Trunk* thy cursed *Head* I’ll cut.
 Of all your Host the Carcases, this Day,
 Shall to the *Fowls* and *Beasts* be made a *Prey*;
 That all, who on the spacious Earth do dwell,
 May know there is a God in *Israel*.

‘ And

1 Sam.
17.

‘ And to this whole Assembly ’t shall appear,
‘ That **not by Sword** the Lord doth save, nor Spear
‘ The Lord our God, the Battle doth command.
‘ And he will give you up into our hand.

So spake the sprightly Youth. And at that Word
Th’ enraged *Gyant* was so throughly stir’d,
That forth he step’d; and lifting up his *Spear*,
With **direful** Threats, to *David* he drew near.
David again advanc’d to him as fast,
And taking, from his Scrip, a Stone; it cast
From out his *Sling*, and smote the *Philistin*
Just on his Forehead, and the Stone sank in.
Down fell the *frightful* Monster on his Face,
His Weight a *Pit-fall* making in the Place.
Prostrate he *sprawling* lay. The bruised Earth
Receiv’d, with trembling, her deformed Birth.
One *Tell* he gave; but such an one, as shook
Both Camps: the scared Beasts their Dens forsook
Then, with a *Groan*, he yeilded unto Death;
Vomiting out, in smoky Flakes, his Breath.

thus with a *Sling* and *Stone*, did *David* smite,
 and slay *Goliath*, in a Single Fight,
 the dext'rous Slinger, who the Prize might win
 from the * *Left-handed* Sons of *Benjamin*!
 nay, rather let the Praise to him alone
 be given, who did guide both *Hand* and *Stone*.

1 Sam.
 17.

* Judg.
 20. 16.

While, stretch'd upon the Ground, the *Gyant* lay,
 like some great *Mole* of Earth, or *Bank* of Clay;
 the nimble *Stripling*, laying by his *Sling*,
 and on his massy Shoulders lightly spring:
 there standing, forth the *Gyant's* Sword he drew;
 and therewith did his *Neck* assunder hew.
 then, by the *shaggy Locks*, the *Head* did take,
 and lug along, until his Arms did ake.

Him, thus returning, Captain *Abner* meets,
 embraces and affectionately Greets:
 and tells his fearless Valour to the Sky,
 and gratulates his happy Victory.

B

By

1 Sam.
17.

By him conducted to the Royal Tent,
To Saul he doth Goliath's Head present.
Mean while the Philistins, their Champion dead,
With Terror struck, in great Disorder fled.
The Hebrews, shouting, eagerly pursue,
And of them kill'd and wounded not a few.
Thus the Proud Philistins the Lord did quell,
And wrought Deliverance for his *Israel*.

C H A P. III.

A Son had Saul, whose Name was Jonathan,
A brave young Prince, and a Courageous Man.
1 Sam. 17. He present was, when David to the King
The Trophy of his Victory did bring:
And well observing David's Speech and Mein
(The like to which he ne'er before had seen)
His Love so strongly did to David move;
That even as his Life he did him love.
Nor did his Love on barren Matter fall:
But fruitful prov'd, and grew reciprocal.

David lov'd : Him *David* lov'd again. 1 Sam.
18.
and which lov'd best, was hard to know, o'th' twain.

A solemn Covenant between them pass'd.

Friendship that *beyond the Grave* should last.

The noble Prince did of his Robe divest

himself, and *David* to accept it press'd.

His Garments he on *David* did bestow ;

'n to his *Sword*, his *Girdle* and his *Bow*.

Which Presents *David* did, with thanks, accept ;

Ties of Friendship, to be firmly kept.

Into chief Favour also with the King

his Glorious Victory did *David* bring.

Courtier now the Shepherd is become,

The King him not permitting to go Home.

Advanc'd he is unto an high Degree

Honour ; none so great with *Saul*, as he.

For the Men of War the King him set.

Wherein his Wife Behaviour did him get

The Love of all the People ; and of all

The Courtiers too : *a thing doth rarely fall.*

1 Sam.
18.

Now *Honours* on him wait: and, for a while,
Indulgent *Fortune* doth upon him smile.
In him both *Court* and *Country* take Delight:
At once the King's and People's Favourite.

But Oh! How *slippery* are Princes Courts,
Where *fickle* Fortune with poor Mortals sports!
And, by *alluring* Baits, doth them entice
To trust themselves upon the glazed Ice:
Then, on a suddain, e're they are aware,
Trips up their Heels, and leaves them *grov'ling* the
The *Wheel*, whereon she doth her Creatures raise
Is in continu'al Motion, never stays,
But always *whirls about*: who sit a-top
To Day, to Morrow to the Bottom drop.

How *tick'lish* is a Favourite's Estate,
Who must upon another's *Humour* wait:
And, when he apprehends he stands most fast,
Is *puffed* down, with an inconstant Blast!
If he the *Prince's Creature* seems to be,
He hardly 'scapes the *Peoples Obloquie*.

all their *Mis-haps* to his Account they score :

1 Sam.
18.

and lay their *Disappointments* at his Door.

in the *Peoples Favour* he appear,

the Prince or is, or seems to be in Fear :

and that *too Popular* he may not grow,

seeks all Occasions how to *Lay him low*.

David found. The People sing his Praise:

and that, in worthless *Saul*, doth Envy raise,

It so fell out that, now the Coasts were clear

from *Philistins*, and Peoples Minds from Fear;

the *Hebrew Dames*, from all the Cities round,

with Instruments of most melodious Sound,

came tripping out; and, all along the way,

on the well-tun'd Strings, did sweetly play.

their *Fingers* play'd; their nimble *Feet* did dance,

for Joy of their Unhop'd Deliverance.

Together thus they come, to meet the King;

and, in his Ears, this *Epinicion* sing.

SAUL hath (of Enemies) his *Thousands* slain,

and *DAVID* his *Ten Thousands*] With Disdain

^{1 Sam.}
^{18.} The King this heard. It made his Colour rise;
And his *Displeasure* sparkled in his Eyes.

While thus the Women, in their tuneful Chorus
Saul's Acts extol; and David's ten times more:
The *Evil Spirit* an envenom'd Dart
Let fly, and lodg'd it in Saul's thoughtful Heart.
The Poyson wrought, and in a trice possess'd,
With *Soul-tormenting Jealousies*, his Breast.
Suspition, and *Distract* in him it bred;
And with *Surmizings* fill'd his troubled Head.
He swell'd and chaf'd: at length his Discontent
Did thus it self, in angry Accents, vent.

To David they ascribed have, said he,
Ten Thousands: And but Thousands unto me.
Thus they prefer my Vassal me before:
And, but the Kingdom, what can he have more

From that Day forward, Saul, did David eye
And to have slain him, (divers times, did try:

For a while good *David* on his Harp did play,

1 Sam.
18.

The Trouble of *Saul's* Spirit to-day.

But *David's* God (who had King *Saul* rejected,

And chosen *David*) *David* still protected.

When *Saul* perceiv'd (for even wicked Men U

Have Sights of God's Outgoings, now and then)

That God did prosper *David*, and did move

The Hearts of all the People him to love;

He daily grew of *David* more afraid,

And studied how he might be best betray'd

Two Daughters had King *Saul*. A stately Dame

The Elder was, and *MERAB* was her Name.

A topping Lady she, whose lofty Look

Shew'd, that she nothing that was Low could brook.

Commanding Pow'r reign'd in her sparkling Eye,

And on her Brow late awful Majesty.

Sprightly Vigour fill'd her Manly Face,

Which yet was not without a pleasing Grace.

And had her Breast been laid, she might have gone

Among the Warriours, for ah how

1 Sam. 18. So look'd *Penthesilea*, when she came
To *Priam's* Succour. Such another Dame
Was (she who durst engage in single Fight
With *Theseus*) the warlike *Hippolite*.

Unlike her self, a Sister *Mérab* had
(The Joy and Grief of many a Noble Lad)
Fair *MICHAEL* she was call'd, whose lovely Face
No Feature wanted that could add a Grace.
Her Body delicate. Wherein enshrin'd,
As in its Temple, dwelt a virtuous Mind.
Engaging Sweetness beamed from her Eye:
And on her Cheek sat Maiden-Modesty,
Her courteous Mien gave Proof to all, that she
From Pride, and Haughtiness of Mind was free.
For of the Meanest she would notice take,
Her whole Converse Humility bespoke.
So graceful was her Gesture, it did move,
At once, Beholders to admire and love.

These were *Saul's* Daughters. And by these the King
Ruin on *David* did design to bring.

By one of these he hoped to prevail:
 All his other *Stratagems* should fail.
 One of these Ladies promised had been
 To whosoever should kill the *Philistin*.
 Which *David* having done might justly claim
 One; but the King had Power which, to name.
 He therefore *Merab* first assign'd to be
 The Guerdon of young *David's* Victory.
 But when the time approach'd, he chang'd his Mind;
 And her unto another's Bed consign'd.

But *Michal's*, lovely *Michal's* Virgin Love,
 A strong Desires, did unto *David* move.
 Her Father on't: Nor could forbear
 To say, *I'll give her to him for a Snare.*

His Servants he instructed how to draw
David to yeild, to be his Son-in-Law.
 They tell him, what Delight in him the King
 Did take; what Honour it to him would bring,
 To be unto his Sovereign ally'd:
 Besides th' Enjoyment of so fair a Bride.

When

1 Sam.
18.

When he himself excus'd, upon the Score
His Family was low: himself too poor:
Out of his slender Fortunes to advance
So large a Dowry, as the King, perchance,
Might look to have (*for Women then were thought,*
It seems, of Worth sufficient to be bought.)
Th' instructed Courtiers presently reply'd,
The King no Dowry doth desire, beside
An Hundred Fore-skins of his Enemies
The Philistins: That Dowry will suffice.

This was the Snare the treach'rous King did lay
His well-deserving David to betray.
Ungrateful Prince! Though David him had freed
From Danger, when he made Goliath bleed:
Yet on set-purpose he this Dowry chose,
That he to Danger David might expose.
He knew the valiant Youth's advent'rous Mind
The greatest Hazards never had declin'd,
And, by proposing this, he did intend
David to bring to an untimely End.

non V.

Twa

'Twas not *Ambition* to be Son-in-Law
Unto a King, did *humble David* draw.
Michal's fresh Beauty and Affection move
In youthful *David* like Returns of Love.
And when he heard what Dowry *Saul* propos'd
He gladly with the Proposition clos'd.
The *Maid* he lik'd (as who, indeed could choose)
The *Terms* he lik'd. What was there to refuse?
For though he should not *Michal* thereby gain.
He gladly would the *Philistins* have slain.

Up, with his Men, he in the Morning gets,
And on the *Philistins* so briskly sets;
That, tho' with all the speed they could, they fled
He laid a *double Hundred* of them dead.
Whose *Fore-skins* he unto the Court did bring,
And gave a *double Dowry* to the King.

Ill-pleas'd was *Saul*, that what he did project
For *David's* Ruin, wrought not that Effect.
Had *David's* Head been lifeless brought, that Sight
Would to his Eyes have yeilded more Delight.

Yet,

1 Sam.
18.

Yet, since it would not further his Design,
To manifest Displeasure, and repine;
He held it best, his Promise good to make;
And *David* for his Son-in-Law to take.
Concealing therefore, for a little while,
His *Hatred* under a dissembled *Smile*;
He of true Gladness made a *feigned* Show,
And *Michal* upon *David* did bestow.

The Marriage-Rites perform'd, the Shepherd's led
With Nuptial Songs, to Princess *Michal's* Bed.
Where leaving them, in amorous Embraces,
My Muse their Father's *Machinations* traces.

C H A

C H A P. IV.

NOT fully were the Princely *Nuptials* o'er;
Not fully Bride and Bridegroom joy'd, before
Envidious *Fame*, by a confirm'd Report,
Disturb'd the Pleasures of the peaceful Court.

The *Philistins* again had took the Field:
The *Viol* now must to the *Clarion* yeild.
David to Field must go: The *Trumpet* sounds,
To bid the *Philistins* prepare for Wounds.
Saul's Hope revives, that some *Philistian* Spear
Will rid him of both *David*, and his *Fear*.
To lose a Battle would not trouble *Saul*,
So he might lose his Son-in-Law withal.
But, to his Trouble, *David* from the War
Return'd, with *Conquest*, and without a *Scar*.
And, to torment him more, each Enterprize
rais'd *David* higher in the Peoples Eyes.

Till

1 Sam.
18.

Till now, a secret Hope restrained *Saul*,
That *David* by the *Philistins* would fall.
But having, by repeated Tryals, found
That *David* still return'd, without a Wound:
Grown desp'rate, and impatient of delay,
He bids his Son, and Servants, *David* flay.

1 Sam.
19.

Surpriz'd, the *Courtiers* on each other gaze,
As Men whom suddain Horror doth amaze.
None undertakes the Work: All silent stand,
Fill'd with *Abhorrence* of the King's Command.
They could not, without Reluctation, hear
His Death decreed, who was to them so dear.
Nor could the King a Man amongst them gain,
That would, with *David's* Blood, a *Finger* stain.

But *Jonathan*, whose deeper-rooted Love
Did, with a stronger Spring, to *David* move,
Was not content, to only hold his Hand,
From Executing that unjust Command:
Unless his utmost Pow'r he also bent,
His Brother *David's* Ruin to prevent.

Leavi

Leaving his Father therefore, out he goes,
 his Father's wicked Counsels to disclose
 to David. But when unto him he came,
 How *confus'd* he was, 'twixt Grief and Shame.
 He griev'd to find his Friend so near Death's Jaws,
 and blush'd to think his Father was the Cause.
 Shame made him loth his Father's Fault to speak,
 but Friendship prompted, the Design to break.
 Friendship prevail'd. And with a down-cast Bye,
 made him understand the Danger nigh.

Not troubled more was David, when he heard
 that he before suspected not, nor fear'd:
 an over-joy'd in Jonathan to find
 true a Friendship, and so brave a Mind.
 And, in the most endearing Terms, he shew'd
 hearty Sence thereof, and Gratitude.

Then, sitting down together, they concert
 how they may best th' impending Storm avert.
 was agreed, that David should abide
 secret, until Jonathan had try'd

His

1 Sam.
19.

His Father's Temper; that he so might find,
How deep th' Offence was rooted in his Mind.

They part. And *David* doth himself with-draw
To Court goes *Jonathan*. With filial Awe,
And humble Stile, he *David's* Cause doth plead
And with his Father thus doth intercede.

‘ Let not the King against his Servant Sin,
‘ Whose Works to thee-wards very good have been
‘ His Life, thou know’st, he in his Hand did give
‘ And Great *Goliab's* Head he off did cut.
‘ The monstrous *Philistin* by *David* fell.
‘ A great Salvation, to all *Israel*,
‘ The Lord by him did work. Thou didst it see
‘ And didst therein rejoyce, as well as we.
‘ Why wilt thou *David* slay, without a Cause,
‘ Who is in all things subject to thy Laws?
‘ O draw not on thy self the heavy Guilt,
‘ That waits on *guiltless* Blood unjustly spilt!
‘ Pardon, most honour’d Father, I beseech,
‘ My Boldness, and the Freedom of my Speech

It is for *David* that I humbly sue,
David, who doth thine Enemies subdue.
Let me prevail: thine Anger, pray withdraw
From both *my Brother*, and *thy Son-in-Law*.
So well did *Jonathan* discharge his part,
Well he us'd the *Oratorian Art*;
That he prevail'd: The King revers'd his Doom;
Father by the Son was overcome.
That there might no Ground for Fear remain,
He gave his Oath, *David* should not be slain.
Which Assurance *Jonathan* did bring
That *David*, to wait again upon the King.
Place in Court he takes: and for a space,
Stands, as formerly, in *seeming Grace*.
But 'twas not long before the curst Root
Of Envy, did again begin to shoot:
Jealous *Saul* a fresh Occasion took,
To set *David* with an evil Eye to look.

1 Sam.
19.

1 Sam.
19.

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Place in Court he takes: and for a space,
It stands, as formerly, in seeming Grace.

But 'twas not long before the cursed Root

Envy, did again begin to shoot:

Jealous *Saul* a fresh Occasion took,

David with an evil Eye to look.

1 Sam. 19. The restless *Philistins* the Land again
Invaded had. Whom *David* to restrain
His Men led forth; and with such Fury flew
Upon them, that he their main Body flew.
Great was the Slaughter his revengeful Blade
Upon the *Philistins*, at that time, made:
That had not some repriev'd themselves by Flight
The Host of *Philistins* had perish'd quite.

So great a Victory, 'twas thought by all,
Would have endeared *David* unto *Saul*:
And 'twas but reasonable to expect,
So good a Cause should yeild a good Effect.
But, on the contrary, he *David* more
Maligned now, then e'er he did before.
He saw, that *David* daily more became
The People's Darling: And he thought his Aim
Was at the Crown. He let in a Surmize,
That *David* one Day would against him rise.
He recollected what the Prophet said
Of his Rejection. And he was afraid

David would prove that *Neighbour*, * unto whom 1 Sam.
19.
 the Kingdom, rent from him, in time should come. * 1 Sam
 e saw, that God did eminently Bless 15. 28.
 David's Undertakings with Success.
 at David was unto the People dear,
 also saw; and that encreas'd his Fear.
 thought withal, that David did improve,
 all the Arts he could, the Peoples Love;
 at, having gain'd a pow'rful Interest,
 might, by Force, the *Scepter* from him wrest.
 ese restless Workings of his troubl'd Head,
 plexing Thoughts, and Terrors in him bred.
 length he was with Apprehensions fill'd,
 at He himself, by David, should be kill'd.

How miserable is the State of those,
 Aim from blind *Suspicion* doth to Fear expose!
 ath hath less Terror in it. *Who can find*
 rise torment equal to a jealous Mind!

When Saul this Apprehension in had let,
 D all his Passions in a ferment set.

^{1 Sam.} Fear, Anger, Envy, Madnefs, vengeful Hate
^{19.} Did boil together, and incorporate
In his foul Breast: yet fo, that bloodlefs *Fear*
Did, in his Face prædominant appear.
Those other *Passions* ready were t' invent
New Kinds of *Tortures*, *David* to torment:
But *Fear* o'er-rul'd, and dictated that he,
By *David*'s Death, himself from Death must free
And that it must be by a sudden Stroke,
Lest *David* should the People's Help invoke,
And they by Force him rescue. Thus again
Is guiltless *David* destin'd to be slain,
By Secret Sentence in the King's own Heart,
Which he resolv'd he would to none impart.
For he no more would trust to Friend, or Foe:
But his own Hand should give the fatal Blow.

CHAP. V.

When thus the *King* had *David's* Death design'd,
 The *Jessean Prince*, whose uncorrupted Mind
 Was never tainted with disloyal Stain,
 Turn'd from Battle to the Court again.
 And, as a Proof of Victory, did bring,
 Spoils, a chosen Present to the King.

How easily is *Innocence* betray'd,
 When, under *Shews* of Kindness, *Snares* are laid!
 Apprehension had the guiltless Youth
 In Danger; arm'd with *Probity* and *Truth*.
 Such an *inoffensive* Mind did bear,
 Made him from *Suspicion* free, and *Fear*,
 With Confidence unto the King he goes
 (Confidence from *Innocency* flows)
 And doth, in order, unto him relate
 The Battle, and his Army's present State.

1 Sam.
19.

The crafty King too, at the first Congress
No Token of Displeasure did express.
But, under *outside* Kindness, *inward* Hate
Concealing, did a fitter Season wait
To execute his Purpose; that the Blow
Might satisfy, which should his Anger show.

Nor did he long for an Occasion wait,
But, in a while, as in his House he sate;
The evil Spirit from the Lord (*for God
Makes use of evil Spirits, as a Rod*)
Upon him came; his Jave'lin in his Hand,
And *David*, playing on his Harp, did stand
Before him, with refreshing Tunes t' allay
His Grief, and th' evil Spirit drive away.

So kind an Office, sure, one might have thought
Upon the worst of Natures would have wrought
And hindred even the most savage Mind,
From perpetrating what he had design'd.
But *Saul*, now hard'ned to a brutish Rage,
Which not the softest Sweetness could assuage

This

Thinking he now had an Advantage got
 To strike the Stroke, when *David* eyed him not,
 His Jave'lin at him, with such Fury, cast,
 That, had it hit, that Hour had been his last.
 But who the Kingdom unto *David* gave,
 Did *David* now from threat'ned Danger save.

1 Sam. •
 19.

The rust'ling of *Saul's* Garment (when on high
 He rais'd his Arm, to let the Jave'lin fly)
 Made *David* look, and nimbly slip aside,
 While the sharp-pointed Shaft did by him glide.
 Which, whirling by, with such a Force did fall,
 That fast it stuck upon the adverse Wall.

'Twas time for *David* warning now to take,
 And for his Safety due Provision make.

That Person now he could no longer trust,
 With one, that neither grateful was, nor just.
 He, whom no Services could render kind:
 And the most solemn Promises could bind.
 He, who, to gratifie his groundless Hate,
 Would break not his Sacred Oath to violate.

1 Sam.
19.

With such an one it was not safe to stay :
While therefore safe he was, he went away.
The treach'rous Court he speedily forsook,
And to his private House himself betook,
Where, to his loyal Wife, he did relate
Her Father's *Falseness*, and his own *hard Fate*.

Mean while the wrathful King (whose hot de
Of *David's* Death, had set him all on Fire)
Vex'd that his rurs'ling Robe that Warning ga
To *David*, from the Stroke himself to save;
And fearing lest, if now he got away,
He might the Wrong revenge another Day:
All in a Rage, he certain of his Guard
(Whose *surlly* Looks bespake their Natures *hard*
Unto him call'd; and charg'd them to repair
Forthwith to *David's* House, and slay him th

With down-cast Looks the troubled Guards re
The unexpected Charge. The Court they lea
And, lest they should, for Backwardness be che
To *David's* House their heavy Steps direct.

There make a stand : and set a privy Watch,
That, if he out should step, they might him catch.

1 Sam.
19

But loyal *Michal*, whose mistrustful Eye
Had all the Ways survey'd, did them descry :
And told her Husband, If he should remain
In's House till Morning, he would then be slain,
Then, through a Lattice, did direct his Eye
To th' Place where the insidious Guards did lye.

The Sight of these, and Sense for what they came,
Did his advent'rous Courage so inflame :
That, had not *Michal*, weeping, on him hung,
He boldly had himself among them flung,
With Sword in hand. But *Michal*'s moving Tears
Brought him to listen to her pressing Fears.
Together, thereupon, they Counsel take ;
By what means he a safe Escape may make.
Love shews the way : fair *Michal* doth propose ;
And *David*, won by her, doth therewith close.

When

1 Sam.
19.

When *Darkness* had the Place of *Light* possess'd
And drowzy Sleep had Mortals laid to rest;
When through the fable Clouds no Star appear'd
No gagling *Goose*, nor yelping *Cur*, was heard:
Then *Michal* (who had all things ready got,
Needful to carry on the harmless Plot)
Having her dearest *David* oft embrac'd
(While he encircled, with his Arms, her Waist)
Did, through a Window, gently let him down;
And softly said, *Live, David, for the Crown.*
May God thee keep, and bring thee safe agen
Unto thy *Michal*. He reply'd, A M E N.
Then, with a Sigh, she did the Window close.
Her Sigh he eccho'd: and away he goes.

C H A

CHAP. VI.

NOW travels *David*, in a mournful Plight,
Under the Covert of a darksome Night;
And *Gibeon* left, himself he recommends
To God's Protection, and to *Ramah* bends
His wand'ring Course. At *Ramah* then did dwell
His Friend, the Rev'rend Prophet, *Samuel*.
Arriv'd, he to the Prophet opens all
The Wrongs, which he sustained had from *Saul*.
How he his Life had fought, he doth relate;
And much laments his own unhappy State.

The good old Man doth *David's* Case bewail,
And, that his Spirit might not sink, or fail;
Doth him encourage in the Lord to trust,
Whom he had found both Merciful and Just.
He wish'd him call to Mind the Oyl was shed,
At *Beth-lehem*, upon his youthful Head,

By

1 Sam.
19.

By God's Command: That, being so Anointed,
He to the Kingdom was, by God, appointed;
Who, through his Troubles, would him still prefer
From Hurt, if he from God did never swerve.
Advis'd him therefore, not to let in *Fear*,
How great foe'er his *Perils* might appear:
But trust in God, who never will forsake
The *Wrong'd*; who him for their *Protector* take.
David thus strength'ned: He and *Samuel*
To *Najoth* go; and there together dwell.

Mean while, with eager Eyes, th' impatient King
Look'd, every Moment, when his Guards would bring
The Head of *David*. In, at length, they come
And tell him, *David's sick a-bed at Home*.
For, with that shift, when they the Door drew nigh
And ask'd for *David*, *Michal* put them by;
Having an *Image* placed in his Bed,
With *Goats-hair Pillow* laid, as'twere his Head.

With furrow'd Brows, and Countenance severe
The disappointed King his Guards did hear:

ed, sharply check'd for be'ing so negligent,
em back with speed to *David's* House he sent.
fetch him, Bed and all, without delay,
d he, that I my self the Wretch may flay.

1 Sam.
19.

They go. But, Oh! the rage that in him burn'd,
d at his Nostrils fum'd, when they return'd,
d brought him Word that, *David* being fled,
ey found an *Image* only in his Bed.

w did he storm! He now incens'd was more,
this Escape, than e'er he was before.

retted him to think that, by a *Wile*,

Daughter *Michal* should him thus beguile.

ex'd him, that his easie Guards should let

Enemy have time away to get,

that which most of all disturb'd his Mind,

s, that he *David* knew not where to find.

d foul he would have fell, it might be fear'd,

on his Guards, had he not timely heard,

at *David*, in the dark, to *Najoth* slid;

d there himself among the Prophets hid.

Forthwith

1 Sam.
19.

Forthwith to *Najoth* Messengers he sent,
To fetch him thence : Away, with speed, they went
But here, the Lord himself doth interpose,
To save his *David* from invading Foes.
For when they to the *Prophets School* were come,
And saw the Company of Prophets ; some
Then Prophefying, all the rest attent,
And *Samu'el* standing o'er, as President,
They could not *David* touch: But on them all
Who were, to apprehend him, sent by *Saul*,
A Spirit came from God ; and they began
To fall a Prophefying, Man by Man.

Thrice did the *stubborn* King this Course repeat
And God, as oft, did his Design defeat.
No sooner came his Messengers among
The Prophets, but Prophetick Notes they sung.
Gall'd with these Disappointments, th' angry King
(Whom *Envy*, *Fear* and *Jealousie* did sting)
Resolves in Person he'll to *Najoth* go ;
And once more try what he himself can do :

Forw

1 Sam.
19.

ward he sets, and all the way he went,
 contriv'd how he might *David* circumvent.
 Ere he got to *Najoth*, on him fell
 Spirit from the Lord; and he, as well
 they whom he before had sent, began
 Prophecy: and Prophefying ran
Najoth, where, at sight of *Samuel*,
 stripping off his Cloaths, he prostrate fell
 on the Ground; and in that ruful plight,
 naked all that Day, and all that Night.
 Hence a Proverbial Speech it grew to be,
 when in Religious Company we see
 one, who himself Religious is not;
Saul then too among the Prophets got?

How admirable are the Ways of God,
 whether his *Staff* he uses, or his *Rod*!
 The *First* of these his fainting Ones doth stay:
 The *Last* doth them Correct that run astray.
 Who would not bow to that tremendous Pow'r,
 which can thus eas'ly us o'er-rule; and our

Designs

1 Sam. 19. Designs defeat? Who would not to that Hand
His Will submit, that can all Wills Command?

How *resolutely*, in an headstrong Will,
Did *Saul* determin he would *David* kill!
How *eagerly* did he his Will pursue,
His trembling Hands in *David's* Blood t' imbrue
What *direful* Threats did he breath forth, what he
Would do, could he again but *David* see!
Yet, when he came where *David* was, we find
That awful Pow'r his Spirit down did bind:
He could not *David* touch, No Pow'r he had,
How bad foe'er his Will was, to be bad.
But over-pow'r'd (though Evil was his Heart)
He was constrain'd to act the Prophet's Part.
He spake, and did, as Prophets us'd to do,
Who were inspired, by the Lord, thereto.

Small odds, perhaps, or none to outward Sign
Might be 'twixt this *wrong* Prophet, and the *right*
Each, probably, alike might act, and speak;
And be alike regarded, by the *Weak*

1 Sam.
19.

and undiscerning Croud, who seldom try
beyond the outward Ear, and outward Eye.
plain it is, that *Saul* was now no more
God regarded, than he was before.
Prophefied, when he was among
the Prophets; but *his Spirit still was wrong.*

One long before (who *Balak* taught to lay
a dangerous Stumbling Block in *Israel's* Way)
a grand Exemplar is, that Wicked Men,
against their Wills, may utter, now and then,
those sacred Mysteries, which God alone
can, by his Spirit, unto Man make known.

What glorious Things did *Beor's* Son * declare
concerning *Jacob's* Seed! How precious are
the Prophefies, wherein he did foretel
the Beauty, Strength and State of *Israel*!
That Soul-refreshing Comforts do arise,
in pious Minds, from those sweet Prophefies!
How well they may: for God himself had put
in the Prophet's Mouth a Word; and shut

* Num.
23, &
24.

D

His

1 Sam. His *Divinations* out: whereby we know

19.

What he then spake did from God's Spirit flow

Yet this, perhaps, of Prophets was the worst
Who, *for Advantage*, would have *Isra'el* Curs'd.
For which, how well soe'er he spake, he stands
Condemn'd upon Record, with publick Brands.

Yet God, to shew his Sov'reignty, doth chuse,
Sometimes, the Tongues of such as these to use,
Who, tho' the Truths they tell may be believ'd,
Yet are not they themselves to be receiv'd.

* Num. Though *Balaam* did of *Jacob's Star* * declare,

24. 17.

|| Cha. *The Sword of Isra'el* did not *Balaam* || spare:

31. 8.

Nor is it long e're Prophefying *Saul*

+ 1 Sam

31. 4.

Shall forced be on his own Sword to † fall.

May these Examples lead us to beware
How we receive such (Preach they n'er so fair)
For Gospel-Ministers. But let us rather

* 1 Sam

10. 22.

Observe (as he * of old) But who's their Father

For Men may glorious Truths declare, we see

Yet they the Children of the Devil be.

C H

1 Sam.
19.

C H A P. VII.

WHILE yet, among the Prophets, raptur'd lay
King Saul; nor Power had to get away:

Good David, who, with Reverence, admir'd

his gracious Act of Providence, retir'd;

When the Fit was over, angry Saul

ould, in Displeasure, on the Prophets fall.

From *Najoth* therefore (having first adviz'd

1 Sam.
20.

th rev'rend *Samu'el*, whom he highly priz'd)

, undiscern'd, withdrew; and strait did bend

Course to *Jonathan*, his faithful Friend:

o whose Bosom he could freely vent

Sorrows, and his hunted State lament.

The gentle Prince (whose truly Noble Breast

is with a generous Compassion blest)

Friends Complaint, his Dangers and his Fears,

th close, but sorrowful, Attention hears:

H

D 2

And,

1 Sam. 18. And, having heard, endeavours, what he may,
His Fears, with strong Assurance, to allay.
He thought his Father nought would undertake,
To which he would not him first privy make:
Whereby, he hop'd, it in his Pow'r would be
His Friend, if ought attempted were, to free.

But *David*, whom Experience now had taught
That, both by *Force* and *Fraud*, his Life was sought,
Judg'd it not safe, his Person to expose,
On such uncertain, ticklish Grounds, as those.
He told his *Jonathan*, 'Twas not unknown,
How firm a Friendship was between them grown
'Twas therefore reasonable to believe,
His Father hid from him what would him grieve
Or might, perhaps, designedly conceal
His Mind from him; lest he should it reveal.
Yet know, said he, as sure as thou hast Breath
There's but a single Step 'twixt me and Death

That Word with such an Accent, *David* spake
That it a deep Impression did make

pon his tender Friend. His quick'ned Sense
ke a strong Spring, new Vigour took from thence.
arting, he said, From Mischief mayst thou be,
y dearest *David*, and from Danger, free!
hich that thou mayst, I ready am to do
ate'er thou judgest may conduce thereto.

Then sitting down, they mutual Counsel take;
d, at the length, they this Conclusion make,
at *Jonathan*, his Father's Mind, once more,
his Return from *Najoth*, should explore:
d should, accordingly, let *David* know,
ether his Death designed was, or no.
id, mean while, did, by agreement, stay
Exel stone (a Mark, that shew'd the Way)
ar which, in bushy Covert, he might ly
e, from the View of any passing by.

efore that yet they of each other took
eir Leave, a solemn Covenant they strook,
Oath confirm'd; confirm'd by sacred Oath,
an inviolable Bond on both,

Which to their utmost Off-spring should extend,
 On either Side, and never have an End,
 By which *Astipulation* they did bind
 Themselves, to be unto each other kind.
 That *Jonathan* should faithfully report
 To *David*, how he found Things stand at Court
 And should his utmost Pow'r imploy, to free
 His Friend from Danger, if he any see.
 On t'other hand, That *David* (when the Throne
 Of *Israel* should come to be his own)
 Should *Jonathan*, and all that from him spring
 Secure from Danger, while himself is King.
 For *Jonathan* (whose deeply-piercing Eye
 On *David's* Brow did Marks of Empire spy)
 Was wont, with Confidence, his Friend to tell
 That he should Monarch be of *Israel*.

By this time *Saul* from *Najoth* was return'd
 With smoother Brow. But in his Breast still burn'd
 Malignant Hate: nor did he yet despair,
 To compass *David's* Death at unaware.

The *New-Moon* now drew on, and therewithal 1 Sam.
18.
viv'd the curst Hopes of cruel *Saul*.

made no doubt, but at the *New-Moon-Feast*,
should have zealous *David* for his Guest.

at such times, he always did admit

David, at Table, with himself, to sit.

and then, he hop'd, with more Success, to cast
his Jave'lin, than when he attempted last.

The *New-Moon* being come, and *David's* Seat

empty, when the King sat down to Meat.

two Days together; *Saul* began to doubt

was design'd: And with an angry Pout,

ay) cometh not, said he, old *Jesse's* Son

Meat, as he, in former times, hath done?

Thus *Saul* to *Jonathan*: Who, having ey'd

Father's angry Countenance, reply'd,

ill be thou art pleas'd the Reason to demand

David's Absence, please to understand,

at *David* unto *Beth-lehem* is gone,

urgent Bus'ness (to return anon)

1 Sam.
18.

A Yearly Sacrifice his Brethren hold,
At this time, there (as he himself me told)
To which the Family doth all repair;
And he himself was summon'd to be there.
He therefore earnestly of me did crave
Leave to go thither; and him leave I gave.

As from the Prince's Lips these Words did fall
A Fire of Rage enkind'led was in Saul
Against his Son, which forth, in Choler, brake
And with a furious Accent, thus he spake.

' Thou Son of the perverse rebellious Woman
' (Whose headstrong Folly will be rul'd by no Man
' Do not I know, that Thou hast Jesse's Son
' Made Choice of to thine own Confusion?
' For until Jesse's Son be in his Grave,
' Thy Kingdom no Establishment can have.
' Send therefore, Fetch him (e'er he further
' Make no delay: for he shall surely dye.

These Words in such a *thund'ring* Tone he spake
As seem'd to make the Hall he sate in shake.

Gri

Griev'd was the Princely Jonathan, to hear
Sentence so *unjust*, and so *severe*.

1 Sam.
20.

Small Hopes he had : yet could not choose, but try,
His Father's *stormy Mind* to pacify.

And to that purpose, in an humble Tone,

Ask'd, *Why shall David die? What hath he done?*

As suppling Oyl, on flaming Fire cast,
Instead of *quenching*, doth *augment* the Blast :

Jonathan's soft Words enkind'led more
His wrathful Father, than he was before.

Nothing said : Too full he was to speak,
His *stifling Choler* could not Silence break.

At snatching up, with furious Haste, his Spear
Which at his Hand, designedly stood near)

He, with such Force, at Jonathan it threw,
More than Words, his bloody Mind did shew.

Although the Prince the Spear did nimbly shun;
Yet was he greatly mov'd, at what was done.

Such an *Indignity* would stir a Man

Of meaner Spirits than was Jonathan ;

Consid'ring

1 Sam.
20.

Consid'ring that it was a *publick* Shame:
And *more*, because it from a Father came.
The *harder* too it was for him to bear,
Who was his Father's, and the Kingdom's Heir
Himself long since Adult: and, which was *more*
Had been his Father's *Viceroy* just before.
All which together working in his Breast,
Made this Abuse uneasy to digest.

From Table therefore he, in Heat, arose;
And, breathing forth Displeasure, out he goes.
Then to his own *Apartment* doth retire,
To give free vent to this new-kind'led Fire.
Where falling on his Couch, he doth bemoan
Much more his Friend's Condition, than his own
For as for what concern'd his late Disgrace,
He doubted not consid'ring Men would place
It to his Father's *Passion*; and that he
Himself, his *Passion* o'er, would troubled be.
But, Ah! his Friend, his Friend! Poor *David's* C
Did more affect him, than his own Disgrace.

no longer now doth any Thought remain
Jonathan, that *David's* Fears were vain.
 no clearer Evidence he now doth need,
 that *David's* Death was by the King decreed.
 no more his Act of Violence, for *David's* sake,
 hath clear'd his Doubt, and made his Heart to ake.

1 Sam.
 20.

The tedious Night in restless Tossings spent,
 twixt uneasy Grief and Discontent;
 ; soon as e'er *Aurora* did disclose
 the springing Day, the faithful Prince arose:
 with Honour and Affection did him spur;
 e. d, e're the *Lark* was stirring, made him stir,
 honour reminds him, that his Word he gave
David: Love said, Thou must *David* save.
 ce, which that he might, he to the Field doth go,
 ace his Page his Quiver bearing, and his Bow;
 t knowing why:) No otherwise he went,
 an if, to Recreat himself, he meant.
 ce. Come near the place, where *Jesse's* Son did wait
 the doubtful Issue of his doleful Fate,

His

1 Sam.
20.

His horned Bow, with Sinewy Arm, he drew;
And over *David's* Head the Arrows flew:
One of which Shafts a private Token bore,
Agreed upon between themselves before;
By which poor *David* understood too well,
What *Jonathan* unwilling was to tell.

The thoughtless *Page*, who nothing did suspect
With nimble Speed, the Arrows did collect;
And to his Master bring, who did deliver
Unto the *Lad* his unstrung Bow and Quiver
To carry home. Himself remain'd behind,
As if, to walk alone, he were inclin'd.

The Youth now gone, and *Jonathan* alone,
Forth *David* came, from side of *Ezel-stone*:
And, falling to the Ground, with tripled Bend
Of Body, did Salute his noble Friend.
Then casting Arms about each other's Neck,
Their pearly Tears each other's Breast bedeck.
They wept and kiss'd, They kiss'd and wept again
Nor could they soon those *christal Floods* restrain

each *Kiss* a fresh Supply of *Tears* did breed,
both their Eyes; till *David* did exceed.

1 Sam.
20.

length, their Covenant renew'd, they part,
each of them bearing with him t'other's Heart.
they part: And each doth his own Path pursue,
with Eyes cast back while either was in View.

The End of the FIRST BOOK.

DAVIDEIS.

THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF HENRY THE FIRST

BY JOHN GILBERT FRODO

OF THE ORDER OF THE KNIGHTS

OF THE BATH

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DAVIDEIS.

BOOK II.

CHAPTER I.

NOW travels *David* with a thoughtful Mind, ^{1 Sam's}
 Uncertain where a safe *Retreat* to find: ^{21.}

For though, while prosp'rous his Affairs did stand,
 His Friends, and Servants *many*, could command;
 Yet now, that Frowns had wrink'led Fortune's Face,
 He knew not where to find a resting Place.

In this perplexed State, his pious Mind
 Was, to Consult the Oracle, inclin'd;
 The *inambiguous* Oracle, from whence
 Jehovah's secret Counsels did dispense:

And

1 Sam. 21. And *undeceiving* Answers always gave
To such as, with an honest Mind, did crave.

To *Nob* his weary Steps he therefore bends
(*Nob* was a City of the Priests, his Friends)
And to *Ahimelech* he doth repair,
Who then possess'd the *Pontifical* Chair.

The rev'rend *Pontiff*, who had nothing heard
Of *David's* Troubles, now was fore a-feard
To see him come alone; who, not long since,
Was royally Attended, like a Prince.
He startled at the Sight: nor could forbear
To ask, Why *unattended* he came there.

It hap'ned, that a certain *Edomite*,
Who to the *Hebrews* was a *Profelyte*,
(One who had Charge and Oversight of all
The *Herd*s, and *Herd-men*, that belong'd to
Was present there; whether detain'd by Vow
Or on what other Score, I know not how.

standing in a Corner, *David* spy'd,
before he to *Ahimelech* reply'd;
knowing well the Man, he was afraid
his Friend, the Priest, would be by him betray'd,
after he the King's Displeasure knew,
any Kindness unto him should shew.
It therefore *into Danger* he should bring
his Friend, or *out of Favour* with the King;
he held it best his Troubles to conceal,
and not his adverse Fortune to reveal:
that, if this *Pick-thank* should relate to *Saul*,
might that, against the Priest, should stir his Gall;
the Priest the Accusation might surmount,
and place his Kindness to the King's Account.

He therefore gave the Priest to understand,
his coming thus, was by the King's Command:
so, he pretended, had dispatch'd him so,
that none his secret Enterprize might know;
Vowed that his Servants he before did send
to such a Place, his coming to attend.

E

Adding,

1 Sam.
21.

Adding, that in such hast he came away
(The Kings Command admitting no delay)
That of Provision he had never thought;
Nor had his Sword, or Weapons with him brou

The guiltless Priest, with unsuspecting Ear,
This feigned Story, for a Truth, did hear.

And, not with *Viſtuals* only him ſupply'd,
But arm'd him with *Goliath's Sword* beſide:

Which, offer'd to the Lord, when he was ſlain
Did with the Priest unto that time remain.

Nay, wanting other, he the *Shew-Bread* gave
Appointed for the Priests alone to have,

In doing which, he Errs that thinks he Err'd
Since *Mercy is to Sacrifice preferr'd*.

Yet e're he gave the consecrated Bread,
He ask'd, if They, who ſhould therewith be

Were Clean. *Who will of Holy Things partake
Must whatſoever makes Unclean forſake.*

Thus furniſh'd, *David* did from *Nob* depart
And ſet his Face for *Gath*, with heavy Heart

not knowing else, where he his Head might hide: ^{1 Sam.} 21.
nor could he long in Safety there abide.
The Servants of King *Achish* quickly knew
that he was *David* who *Goliath* slew.
And straight recounted (to incense their King)
that erst the *Hebrew* Dames of him did sing,
when, in their Dancing and Triumphant Strain,
they brag'd, That he had his *Ten Thousands* slain.
His *David* heard: but would not seem to hear,
concealing, with his utmost Care, his Fear;
but, by a *Stratagem*, he found a way
to save himself, from *Gath*, in Safety to convey.
He got, past the Confines of King *Achish* Land,
to *Isra'el's* Coast again; He's at a stand
which way to take, or whither to direct
his wandering Feet: where he might, unsuspect,
concealed lie, until those Clouds were past,
under which his *Hemisphere* was overcast.
In the World he did not know a Friend,
from whom he could trust: and who could him defend.

Hea

E 2

And

1 Sam. 21. And *Saul*, if once discov'rd, would (he knew)
Through all the Tribes of *Isra'el* him pursue.

No long time had he to deliberate
What Course to take, so pressing was his Fate:
Yet, in those Moments, many a Place was brought
Under the Judgment of his winged Thought.

1 Sam. 22. Of all the *Refuges* his wary Mind
Could, in such haste, and on a suddain, find,
None pleas'd him better, than a certain Cave,
To which its Name the Town *Adullam* gave:
A spacious Cave it was; yet known to few:
Remote from *Gibeah*, and from publick View
And (which did recommend it to his State)
'Twas in the Tribe of *Judah* situate;
Judah, the Tribe from which he sprang, and where
He had most Reason to expect Defence.
This Solitary Cave, he thought, was best:
Where, for a while, he hop'd to find some Rest
The Towns and Cities therefore he forsook,
And to *Adullam's* Cave himself betook.

here long he had not been, before he spy'd
 Friend pass by, whose Faith he oft had try'd:
 whom, unto his Brethren, and his Friends,
 notice of his safe Arrival sends.

With Joy, like that which *Jacob* did revive,
 when news was brought that *Joseph* was alive,
 good old *Jesse* the good Tydings hear
 that *David* was in Safety, and so near:
 forthwith he, his Wife, and ev'ry Son,
 with all their Families, to *David* run,
 to Embrace, and cheer him in his Straight:
 solv'd henceforth to run a common Fate.

The *Bruit* hereof soon spread, and that Report
 made others also unto him resort.

no'er was in *Distress*, or *Discontent*;
 and all that were in *Debt*, unto him went.
 goodly Troop did unto him repair,
 with *Minds* as desp'rate, as their *Fortunes* were.
 and these, with one Consent, implore that He
 Captain o'er them will vouchsafe to be.

1 Sam.
22.

He to their Importunity doth yield,
And taking *Must* of them in the Field;
Who, t' other Day, no living Soul could find,
To whom to trust his Person, or his Mind:
Now finds himself environ'd with a Throng
Of mett'led Blades, about Four Hundred strong.

When first that lonely Cave was in his Eye,
He purpos'd only there *obscure* to lye,
Till Providence should his Affairs dispose;
And reconcile him to his causeless Foes.
But this *Access* of Forces did him force
To alter now his Counsels, and his Course.
He well consider'd, that it was in vain
To hope, that he could long *Conceal'd* remain.
That of his Confluence of Men, Report
Would soon be made to Saul's enquiring Court
And that, with windy Trumpet, flying Fame
Would quickly it, through all the Tribes, proclaim
That Saul, it heard, would not a Moment stay
But fly upon him, like a Bird of Prey.

therefore all things needful doth, with Care,
readiness for his *Defence* prepare.

1. *Sam.*
22.

Soldiers he doth *discipline*, and shew
how to use the *Sword*, and draw the *Bow*.

Aged Parents unto *Moab's* King
(first obtained) he doth bring;
Promise, that they there should safe abide,
God should please the Quarrel to decide:
Moab's King and *Saul* were then at War;
which made him *David* countenance so far.

Things thus dispos'd, He from the Hold did go
and, by his Prophet *Gad*, directing so)
March'd to *Hareth-Forest*, where he might,
forc'd thereto, with more Advantage Fight.

1 Sam.
22.

CHAP. II.

NOW wrap thy self, my *Muse*, in fable Whilſt thou relat'ſt the moſt inhuman
That e'er was done. Lay by thy *Lawrels* now
And wreath thy Temples with a *Cypreſs-Bough*
Thou, who, of all the *Nine*, ne'er known to
Art held *Inventreſs* of the *Tragick* Stile,
Speak through my Quill; and on a doleful Str
In mournful Notes, a *Tragick* Story ſing.

It was not long, e're *Saul's* attentive Ear,
Of *David*, and his New-raiſ'd Men, did hear
And calling to Remembrance, That his Son
(Whoſe Courage was inferiour to none)
On the *Affront* was put upon him laſt
(When he, at Meat, his Jave'lin at him caſt)
Was, in Diſpleaſure, from the Court retir'd
His Fear ſuggeſted that they both *conſpir'd*

ainst him, and *Confederated* were,
Crown and Scepter 'twixt themselves to share;
which, well he knew, could not be done, but he
must, if not slain, at least *Dethroned* be.
The Thought of which, as it did *Horror* breed
in him, whose *Fear* did from his *Guilt* proceed.
did it boyl his *Anger* to a *Rage*,
beyond the Force of *Reason* to assuage.
In this *Turmoil*, he chanc'd abroad to be,
Under the *Umbrage* of a well-spread Tree;
neath whose shady Boughs, in *Chair* of *State*,
sate, himself to Cool and Recreate.
About him stood his Servants, in a Ring,
awaiting the Pleasure of their angry King.
As *Chafing* thus he sate, 'twixt *Wrath* and *Fear*,
grating, in his palsied Hands, his Spear;
his Terror-striking Eye he roll'd about:
and, in a while, his *Choler* thus brake out.

‘ Hear

1 Sam.
22.

‘ Hear now, ye *Benjamites*, will *Jesse’s* Son,
 ‘ When he the *Crown* of *Israel* hath won,
 ‘ To ev’ry one of you (who *Succour* yields
 ‘ Unto him now) rich *Vineyards* give and *Field*
 ‘ Will he you all, of *Thousands*, *Captains* make
 ‘ That ye so ready are his *Part* to take;
 ‘ That all of you against me have *Conspir’d*:
 ‘ And not a *Man*, since *Jonathan* retir’d,
 ‘ Hath shew’d me that my Son a *League* hath made
 ‘ With *Jesse’s* Son: and that I am betray’d?
 ‘ Are ye so well assur’d of *David’s* Grace,
 ‘ That he will each of you promote to *Place*
 ‘ Of *Trust* and *Honour*, that among you none
 ‘ Me pities; none hath shewn me, that my Son
 ‘ Hath stirred up my *Servant* *War* to make;
 ‘ And both my *Crown* and *Life* away to take

This unexpected Speech, the Courtiers stro
 Amaz’d they stand, and on each other look.
 Each Man among them knew himself to be
 From treasonable Combination free.

though their Love to *David* did remain:
 did they still their *Loyalty* retain.

1 Sam.
 22.

when the King's *stern Visage* they beheld,
 pouting Lips, his Cheeks with Anger swell'd;
 stormy Brow; His fiery sparkling Eye;
 foaming Mouth, with Fury drawn awry;
 fuming Breath, puff'd out with Ardor; and
 trembling Motion in his restless Hand:
 free from *Guilt*, they were not free from *Fear*;
 seeing how apt he was to cast the Spear.

While thus the Courtiers in a silent Maze,
 the King, and one another, gaze;
 a Doeg step'd, sprung from the *Edomites*,
 herdsman chief, and chief of Parasites:
 same who, t'other Day, with leering Eye,
 David in the Tabernacle spy.
 Now, to curry Favour with his Lord,
 how the Priest and David did accord.
 He himself at Nob had lately been,
 David with Ahimelech had seen.

How

Sam. How kind the *Priest*; how ready to enquire
Of God, in *David's* Case, at his desire.
Adding, The *Priest* with Food had *David* stor'd
And arm'd him also with *Goliath's* Sword.
In short, he told whate'er *Ahitub's* Son
Had unto *David* said, or for him done.
And in such Terms the Matter did relate,
As were most apt the King to irritate.
Hiding what would the *Priest* have freed from blame
That *David* in the King's Name to him came.

The King in Pain, through Rage, too closely
Within his *swollen* Breast, for want of vent.
Was glad this Charge against the *Priests* to heave
Resolving to discharge his Fury there.

Forthwith a *Purfevant* was sent to bring
The *Priests* from *Nob*, before the wrathful King
The *Priests* the Royal Summons to obey,
Forthwith did put themselves upon the Way
And in a Body, with a good Intent,
Themselves, at *Gibe'ah*, to the King present.

No sooner did the King the Priests espy,
 with a *frowning* Brow, and *flaming* Eye
 on them fix'd; He to the *Chief Priest* brake
 Mind, in Accents which Displeasure spake.

151
22

Hear now, said he, *Ahitub's* Son (whose Word
 him again was, Here am I, my Lord)
 Why hast thou with a *treasonable* Mind,
 against thy Lord, with *Jesse's* Son combin'd?
 Why Treason's plain. For first ye did *Conspire*
 by *Death*. Then thou didst of the Lord enquire,
 that thereby He, to rise against me, might
 embold'ned be, his Sov'reign Lord to smite.
 Thou too didst with *Provisions* him supply,
 that he, as now he doth, in wait might ly.
 Nay, Thou into his Hand a *Sword* didst put,
 that he my Head might from my Shoulders cut.
 To spake the King (And more, perhaps, had spoke,
 that his *Choler* did him almost choak.)
 whom *Ahimelech*, with due respect,
 turn'd an Answer, much to this Effect.

' May't

1 Sam.
22.

‘ May’t please the King, what Service I have
‘ For *David*, was as *David* was thy Son;
‘ Thy Son-in-Law; who always freely went
‘ On whatsoever Service by thee sent;
‘ One, whom the King admitted to his Table
‘ And in thy House was always Honourable.
‘ Nor thought I any one more true to thee,
‘ Amongst thy great Retinue, than was he.
‘ So may he prove! If otherwise he be,
‘ His being so was never known to me.
‘ ’Twas in thy Bus’ness, that he said he came
‘ Nor had I him receiv’d: but *in thy Name*.
‘ Did I then *first* to seek the Lord begin
‘ For him, that this should now be made my
‘ Have I not *oft* before for him enquir’d
‘ Yet ne’er before was Charg’d to have Confess
‘ From me far be it, e’er to entertain
‘ A Thought that may my Loyalty distain.
‘ And from the King far be it too, I pray,
‘ Unto his Servants Charge this thing to lay

to my Father's House: for we are clear;
and can our Innocency make appear.
God is my Witness, what I speak is true:
thy Servant of this Matter nothing knew.

1 Sam.
22.

to spake the reverend *Ahimelech*,
and with his last Words bow'd his aged Neck.
The other Priests, to shew they did agree
what he said, bow'd ev'ry Man his Knee.

so just the Priest's Defence was, and so clear,
to the Standers by, did he appear;
that all the Courtiers ready were to shout
Joy: When, on a suddain, *Saul* broke out,
with a Vehemence of Voice, did cry,
thou *Ahimelech*, shalt surely die,
all thy Father's House. O cruel Word!

the cruel Mind! to be by all abhorr'd.
Abhorr'd it was: Each Courtier hung his Head;
ev'ry Face grew Pale, which had been Red.
The dismal Sentence did with Horror strike
Hearers: deep-fetch'd Sighs shew'd their dislike.

A

1 Sam.
22.

A trembling Murmur at one Side began;
And, spreading, through the whole Assembly ran
Which ended in a Universal Groan;
Enough to melt all Hearts, but those of Stone

CHAP. III.

HOW miserable is the State of those,
Whose *Frame of Government* doth them expose
To *Arbitrary Pow'r*! Where Law's not known
Nor any Man can call his Life his own!
Where Innocency is of little Force!
Because Impartial Justice hath no Course.
Where one Man's Rage keeps all the rest in awe
Whose *Will and Pleasure* are his only Law!

O how much *better* is their Case, who live
Under a *Constitution*, which doth give
To ev'ry Man, in Government, a Share:
And binds the *Whole* to have of *Each* a care

ere *even-handed* Justice freely flows:
 each the Laws, he must be try'd by, knows.
 ere none, by *Pow'r*, can be oppress'd; because
 h *Prince* and *People* subject are to Laws.
 ne there an *Arbitrary Sentence* fears;
 e none can be *Condemn'd*, but by his *Peers*:
 ose *common Int'rest* doth them wary make,
 w they their Fellow's Life away do take.
 the same *Sentence*, wherewith they condemn
 other, may be shortly turn'd on them.
 e too th' accused Party may reject
 heir *Indifferency* he suspect:
 l, ne'er so mean, may for his *Birth-Right* stand
 Tryal, and *full Hearing* may demand.

1 Sam.
22.

prize your good Fortune, ye, whose Lot is fell
 er so good a Government to dwell.
 ere no *Dispencing Pow'r* can make a Breach
 on your Freedoms: nor your Persons reach.
 all ye have, *Life, Liberty, Estate*,
 e by Law; which none can *abrogate*

F

Without

1 Sam.
22.

Without your own Consents. Be therefore wise
And learn, so great a Benefit to prize.
Look to 't: Be watchful, none, by any Wile,
You of so rich a *Jewel* e'er beguile.

Ah! Had the Government of *Saul* been such
He had not dar'd the *Priests* of *Nob* to touch,
Who never were, by *legal Proof*, convicted
Of that, for which he on them Death inflicted
Who had themselves from all Suspicion clear'd
And Blameless unto all, but him, appear'd.

But He, whose Lawless Will for Law was
Resolving off those Innocents to cut;
Commands his Guards to turn, without delay
Upon the *Priests* of *God*, and them to slay.
Adding (to Animate them thereunto)
That these Men had with *David* had to do.
And that they *David's* Flight, altho' they knew
Concealed had from him; and did not shew

If on the Court so great a Terror came,
When he, before, the Sentence did but name.
How great a Consternation may't be thought,
His Warrant for their Execution brought.
The Guards, who never durst, till now, dispute
Their Lord's Command, now stand amaz'd, & mute.
The Thought of such an impious Act them strook
With Trembling, and their palsied Fingers shook,
And let their Weapons fall: Nor was there One
Amongst them all (tho' threat'ned from the Throne
With stormy Frowns) that would extend an Arm
Against the Priests of God, to do them harm.

None, all this while, so unconcern'd did stand,
Did the Priests themselves: The King's Command
To have them slain (which made the rest to quake)
Alteration in their Looks did make:
Paleness, no Dejection, did appear;
Which shew'd their guiltless Souls were free from Fear.
Steady Resolution had possess'd,
With brave Contempt of Death, their peaceful Breast.

1-Sam.
22.

They, in themselves, did feel the best Defence,
Against a Tyrant's Threat'nings, Innocence.
This kept their Spirits in an even mean;
With Countenance compos'd, and Minds serene.
Thus standing, they the Lord their God invoke
Prepared to receive the *Fatal Stroke*.

The more untterrify'd the King beheld
The *Priests*, the more his Breast with Anger swell
He thought that they his Power did contemn:
And, in himself, he vow'd Revenge on them.
He Chaf't extreamly too, to think that he
Should, by his Guards, no more regarded be.
Then *Fury* boyling in him, to its Height,
He singles out the brutish *Edomite*,
Doeg th' Informer; and bid him to fall
Upon the sacred *Priests*, and slay them all.

Not backward, the Yeoman of the Guard
Themselves had shew'd (Men mostly rough & hard)
Than forward he, *Saul's* Pleasure to fulfill:
And strait a *Sea* of righteous *Blood* to spill.

Forth

thwith himself he to the Work addrest,
in *Ahimelech's* unspotted Breast
thirsty Sword did sheath. The aged Sire
not Resist; did not a Foot Retire.
with undaunted Resolution, stood
Stroke; till in a Stream of Purple Blood,
Life expiring, to the Ground he press'd:
glorious *Pattern* leaving to the rest.
ey, without Terror, did his Death behold:
, by his brave *Example*, grew more bold.

h! Had not cursed *Doeg* (the Disgrace
all Mankind, as well as *Edom's* Race)
n, in his Nature, savager, than were
fiercest Beasts, committed to his Care:
awful Aspect of *Ahimelech*,
been enough, the *Russian's* Mind to check:
ose goodly Personage, and manly Face
unaffected *Gravity* did grace.
& beard, than *Milk* more white, unto his Breast
elf extending, thereupon did rest.

1 Sam.
22.

And, in his *Sacerdotal Robes* attir'd,
Was, worthily, both loved and admir'd.

But graceless *Doeg*, of a graceless Kind,
Bred among *Beasts*, to *Brutishness* inclin'd;
By shedding Blood, more bloody-minded grew
And on the other Priests, with *Fury* flew.
They, undismay'd, themselves prepare to die;
Not one Resists, not one attempts to fly:
But, having God, whose Priests they were, implo
They yield their spotless Breasts to *Doeg's* Sw
He, in their Blood, did bathe his reeking Bla
And, on the soiled Earth, them breathless la
The *bloody Wretch* did them of Life bereave,
And, in their warm *Gore*, did them *weltring*
All Man by Man: Nor did he leave alive.
One Ephod-wearer, out of Eighty Five.

Thus fell the *Priests of God*. Thus bleeding
The *Tribe of Levi*; butcher'd in one Day:
Butcher'd by barb'rous Hands, without all C
Against Religion, Reason, Right and Laws.

his *Doeg* acted: but 'twas *Saul* that bid.
his *Saul* commanded: and this *Doeg* did.

1 Sam.
22.

The hard'ned King, having thus fed his Eyes,
With this, to him delightful, Sacrifice:
To carry on his *Vengeance* to the Height,
The City *Nob* too with the Sword did smite:
The living Soul in *Nob* his Fury left,
Whatsoever Breath'd, of Life bereft.
Men, Women, Children, Oxen, Asses, Sheep,
The slaught'ring Sword, at once, away did sweep.
A horrid Act! on his part most *unjust*;
Done, to answer a revengeful Lust:
Not *just* from God; who, his denounced * Will
Against old *Eli*'s House, did thus fulfill.

* 1 Sam
2. 23.

F 4 CHAP.

C H A P. IV.

1 Sam.
23.

W H I L E thus *King Saul* his Forces did imp
His well-deserving Subjects to destroy
Prince David (that not knowing) was intent,
The Sacking of rich *Keilah* to prevent.

To him, in *Hareth-Forest*, word was brought
That the fierce *Philistins* 'gainst *Keilah* fought
And robb'd the threshing-Floors. His gen'rous
To raise the Seige, and save the Town, inclin'd
Forthwith he, therefore, of the Lord enquire
Whose Answer added Life to his Desires.
Most clear the Answer was: yet he was faint
His Men misdoubting, to enquire again.
For they, who were in daily Fear that *Saul*,
With all his Forces, would upon them fall;
Were loth, for others sakes, their Strength to
And make themselves, for their Defence, more

When, the second time enquir'd, the Lord
 more confirming Answer did afford;
 With Promise that, observing his Command,
 He'd give the *Philistins* into their hand.
 Fear shaken off, they March, resolv'd upon't:
 Leaving their *Valiant Leader* in the Front.

1 SAM.
 23.

To *Keilah* come, unlooked for by all,
 On the *Philistins* did briskly fall;
 And with a dreadful Slaughter all did smite,
 Who saved not themselves by timely Flight.

The Siege thus rais'd, & *Keilah's* Coasts now clear'd
 From those ill Neighbours she so justly fear'd,
 To the Town Victorious *David* entred
 For whose Deliv'rance he his Life had vent'red)
 Bringing a Booty, which his Sword did win
 From the defeated Host of *Philistin*.

Saul, he gladdened *Keilites* all their Wits employ,
 To manifest their Gratitude and Joy:
 And well they might, with Civic Garland, crown
 The Temples, who from Spoil had sav'd their Town.

Encourag'd

1 Sam.
23.

Encourag'd greatly with this good Success
Was *David*, and his Followers no less.
They joy together. But how meer a *Toy*,
How momentary, is all *Human Joy*!
This glimm'ring Glance of Sun-shine soon was past
And their *Horizon* blacker Clouds o'ercaft.

The Triumph yet was hardly well begun,
When young *Abiathar*, *Ahim'lech's* Son
(Who from the Sword, by Providence, was free
To propagate a Sacerdotal Seed)
Came panting in; with Sweat besmear'd and Drest
And, almost breathless, thro' the Concourse thr

To *David* come, with many a Sigh and Sob
He tells the horrid Tragedy of *Nob*:
How the High-Priest, with all his Priestly Train
And ev'ry living Soul at *Nob* was slain.
Could you have seen, without a mournful Look
Poor *David* these amazing Tidings took;
Ye would have doubted, whether in his Face
Astonishment, or *Grief* had greater Place.

Jephtha look'd, when, to his great Surprise,
Daughter met him for a Sacrifice.

1 Sam.
23.

The Suddenness and Strangeness of the Deed;
Error in *David*, and Amazement breed.

Grief was equal: for he knew full well,
His Mischief on the Priests for his sake fell.

The Sense whereof did pierce his tender Breast
More deeply, than can be by Words exprest.

The *Infants*, with their *Mothers*, he laments:

That he e'er saw *Nob*, too late repents.

The *Priests* too rigid Fate he doth bemoan

Less, than if their Fate had been his own.

All their Deaths bewails: but most his Grief
Sounds for his *Ahimelech*, their Chief.

Who whose Memory how much he ow'd,

Would not, he thought, more signally be show'd,

Than by Accumulating Favours on

Abithar, his sole-surviving Son.

With kind Embraces therefore he doth cheer

Down-cast Youth; and bids him cast off Fear.

Assuring

^{1 Sam.}
^{23.} Affuring him that, since their common Fate
Made them joint-Objects of *Saul's* causeless Hate
He special Care would of his Safety take,
Both for his own, and for his Father's sake:
Whose well-deservings of him, he should find,
Were deeply graven in a grateful Mind,

To *David* now Intelligence was sent,
By some Well-wisher, That King *Saul* was bent
To shut him up in *Keilah*; and, or take
Him, or destroy the City for his sake.
This made him lay all other Thoughts aside,
And for his own Security provide.

Could *David* on the *Keilites* have rely'd,
That they would have stood faithful to his side
He durst have held the Town against the King
And all the Force he able was to bring.
For *Keilah* was a Place of Strength; and more
Had all Provisions, for a Seige, in Store.
But, doubting how the Citizens might hold,
Against the Force of Steel, or Pow'r of Gold;

to the Sacred Oracle did go,
 's Purpose, and the *Keilites* Faith to know.
 The Answer was, *Saul will come down*: and *They*,
 to save themselves, will Thee to him betray.

1 Sam.
 23.

This Answer, from the Oracle, receiv'd,
 He *David*, of the *Keilites* Help bereav'd,
 resolv'd to lead his slender Band from thence,
 and seek a Place, of more secure Defence.
 He durst himself and Men no longer trust
 In them, who were too fearful to be Just:
 As well he knew, where pressing Fears prevail,
 Fidelity and Friendship quickly fail.
 Ingrateful *Keilah* therefore he forsook,
 And to the Wilderness himself betook:
 To the Wilderness of *Ziph*, where he might be
 (at least he hop'd so) from Betrayers free.

Here Noble *Jonathan* (whose vertuous Love,
 In greatest Dangers, did it self approve)
 In secret Ways, to *David* did repair;
 Whose Heart was almost overwhelm'd with Care.

Look

1 Sam.
23.

Look how it doth a *drooping* Lover cheer
To see the Object of his Love draw near :
So *David* (at the unexpected Sight
Of *Jonathan*, his very Soul's Delight)
Forgetting all his Fears, and Sorrows past,
With gladsome Smiles his faithful Friend embrac'd
Who such Returns of hearty Love did make,
As well the Firmness of his Friendship spake.
Then to a shady *Pine* they jointly walk't :
And, 'twixt themselves, of *David's* Troubles tal-

No need had *David* now himself to moan :
His Friend knew how to make his Case his own
He kindly to him spake, and had a Word
Of Comfort, to confirm him in the Lord.
Bid him not fear ; but in the Lord confide,
Who was (he could assure him) on his side.
Told him, the Lord would cover him, that S
Should never able be to make him fall.
And, *Prophet-like*, Foretold him that the Thro
Of *Israel* should one Day be his own :

and that himself should next unto him be.
 unhappy Man! Who other's Fate could see,
 (not his own.) Thus, having cheer'd his Friend,
 and time requiring, They their Conf'rence end.
 and then, before the Lord, they both renew
 their Covenant; and, Kissing, bid Adieu.

1 Sam.
 23.

CHAP. V.

S, in the Winter, *Show'rs* and *Storms* succeed
 To Sun-shine, which to *Travellers* do breed
 more *Toyl* and *Hardship*, than the *transient* Smile
 the *Sol* gave Comfort, which they had e're-while:
 after *David's* Heart had been made glad,
 the kind Visit which he lately had.
 When *Storms* arose; his *Troubles* now grew more,
 and *Dangers* greater than they were before.
 was come out against him; that he knew.
 with an *Host*; His Followers but few.
 only wanted Knowledge where he lay:
 many ready were him to betray.

The

1 Sam.
23.

The *pick-thank Zephites* (in whose untrod Woods
Th' afflicted Prince, with his Retinue, stood)
To curry Favour, hasten to the King;
And where poor *David* was, glad Tidings bring
Engaging, If he came without delay,
They *David* would into his Hands betray.

Attentive Ears to all the *Zephites* told
The King did lend, and smoothly them cajoll
Bestow'd a graceless Blessing on them, and
Begg'd them to go again, and understand
More fully all his *Haunts*, and closely spy
The *lurking*-Places, where he us'd to ly,
And bring him Word: Away the *Zephites* pry
But *David* had, mean while, forsook their Company:
And to the Wilderness of *Maon* gone:
The Plain that's on the South of *Jeshimon*.
This when *Saul* heard, he thither bent his Course
Resolving to prevail by *Fraud*, or *Force*:
And was so near it, that he *David* found;
And him, and all his Men, environ'd round.

Great was the Streight poor *David* now was in: ^{1 Sam. 23.}
 great, he never had in greater been.

Hope to Conquer, nor no Way to fly:
 thing remained, but to *Fight*, or *Die*.

Then lo! A Messenger came panting in,
 and told the King, the bloody *Philistin*

had had the Land; and all was lost
 least, that lay upon the bord'ring Coast)

As he came with Speed: Therefore, O King,
 cry'd, make no delay; Thy Forces bring

Save thy Land, and let the King make hast,
 ere the Country be laid wholly Wast.

This startling Message made the King, with speed,
 turn: and *David* from his Danger free'd.

God sometimes, by unexpected Ways,
 of to his distressed Ones conveys;

ing others upon them to fall,

would the *Righteous*, without Cause, *enthral*.

his great Deliv'rance, with a thankful Heart,
 God ascrib'd; *David* doth thence depart,

G

And,

1 Sam.
24.

And, with his little Band of Men, did he
Unto the Fortresses of *Engedi*,
A Place of greater Strength, and whence he might
If over-press'd, secure himself by Flight:
Concluding right 'twould not be long e'er
With greater Forces, would upon him fall.
His Expectation fail'd not: for the King,
The *Philistines* repell'd, doth with him bring
Three Thousand chosen Men; Men he had trust
In whose Fidelity he could confide;
And now himself, with pleasing Hopes, he felt
That he should *David* take, alive or dead.

But God, who oft on wicked Men doth bend
The Hurts they plot, 'gainst others; did the
Cast single into *David's* Hands. Now He
Might, with one Stroke, himself for ever free
From *Saul's* Pursuits. For *Saul* had, from his
Nature to ease, retir'd into a Den
(And laid his Royal Robe aside the while,
Left in the Action he should it defile)

not thinking *David* in the Cave had been,
that he had, by Human Eye, been seen.

Who, but a *David*, would have let his Foe,
such Advantage found, in Safety go!

A small Temptation we may think 'twould be
David, now himself at once to free
from all his Troubles. On his Men him egg'd
to give the Stroke; or let them give it, begg'd.

But he, whose noble Breast was thoroughly fill'd
with loyal Principles, from Heav'n instill'd
not liking too, in case he should succeed
to the Crown, his Subjects such a Deed
(a President should have) with brave Disdain
such a Fact, his Foll'wers did restrain.

Yet, that the King might sensible be made,
how causlessly he was of him afraid;
he gently stept to where the Garment lay,
undiscerned, cut the Skirt away.

1 Sam.
24.

Then drawing back, he waited till the King,
His Robe resum'd, went forth; and following
He, at a distance, well secur'd, did stand
(Having the *Lappet* of the Robe in's Hand)
And with *extended* Voice, but *humble* Speech,
And *rev'rend* Gesture, did the King beseech
To view the *Skirt*; an Evidence, quoth he,
Of *Innocence* and *Loyalty* in me:
For well thou mayst conclude, when I so near
Unto thee was, unseen; I could my Spear
As easily into thy Side have put,
As from thy Garment I the *Skirt* did cut.
But that thy Life, O King, to me was dear,
In that I did not hurt thee, doth appear.

So well his *righteous* Cause did *David* plead
(Having none else for him to intercede)
So did he manifest his *Innocence*,
So clear'd himself from all surmiz'd Offence;
So earnestly upon the Lord did call,
Judgment to give betwixt Himself and *Saul*:

at Saul, him hearing, did Confounded stand, 1 Sam.
24.
amaz'd to see his Skirt in David's hand;
The Sight of which convinc'd him, David could
the same time have slain him, if he would.
This satisfy'd him, that his Life he ow'd
David's Mercy, which from Vertue flow'd.
The Sense whereof made him first weep, then cry
O thou, My Son David, art more just than I:
For thou, for all the Evil I have done
To thee, hast me rewarded well, my Son.
That Man his Foe, at such Advantage found,
Would spare! Thy Goodness doth to me abound.
Therefore the Lord reward thee good, I pray,
For thy great Kindness, shewn to me this Day.
Adding, ' Now, behold, by this I know
The Israelitish Crown to thee shall go:
And that the Kingdom shall Establish'd be
To thee, and thine, by Heavens just Decree.
Hear therefore, said he, to me, by the Lord, T
That thou wilt Mercy to my Seed afford:
Saul: And not, for my Offence, cut off the same;
But leave me, in my Father's House, a Name.

1 Sam.
24.

His *Title* to the Kingdom *David* knew,
Better than *Saul*; and whence that Title grew:
Ev'n from the *sacred Oyl*, which, on his Head,
The *Prophet* had, by God's Appointment shed.
Wherefore, to humour *Saul*, he to him sware.
Which done, *Saul* straitway homeward did repare.
But *David*, who too well the King did know
To trust him; up unto the Hold did go.

C H A P. VI.

1 Sam.
25.

THE Prophet *Samu'el* now resign'd his Breath
To God who gave it. To lament whose Death
And, with a due Regard, to Solemnize,
In publick manner his sad *Obsequies*;
The *Israelites*, with one consent, did hie
To *Ramah*, where he liv'd, and was to lie.
And that the King, who lov'd to seem devout
Would give Attendance there, we need not doubt.

gave poor *David* some few Days of ease,
 from his Fears did him a while release.

1 Sam.
 25.

To *Paran* now, new Quarters seeking, he
 mov'd his little Camp from *Engedi*:
 from WilderNESS to WilderNESS; where still
 get Provisions would require some Skill.

Here, Wants encreasing, he to Mind did call,
 at, when before he hither fled from *Saul*,
 he liv'd a *Wealthy Miser* on that Coast,
 of his great Possessions us'd to boast.

Besides a *Thousand Goats*, *Three Thousand Sheep*
Hinds, in *Carmel*, constantly did keep.

Great a *Flock* must many Hands imploy
 any a *lusty Man*, and *sturdy Boy*)

keep, and shear the *Sheep*, and wind the *Wool*:

would a little keep their Bellies full.

at Store of Victu'als therefore must be dress'd,

not such an House; although there were no Guest:

1 Sam.
25.

Which yet were wont good Neighbourhood to shew
And to each other's Sheep-shearings to go.

This *David* well considering, and hearing
That this rich Neighbour had begun Sheep-shearing
Thought it a proper time for him to try,
Whether his *Wealth* was mixt with *Charity*.
Choosing out therefore Ten young Men, who were
Of his Retinue, them he bid prepare
To go to *Nabal* (for that was the Name
Of this rich Man) and when to him they came
They, in their Master's Name, should him salute
In such Terms as might best his Humour suit
Wish *Peate*, said he, to him, his House, and
Whate'er he doth possess, both Great and Small
Then give my Service to him: Tell him, I, *David*
Who might Command, entreat his *Courtesy*.
Which to excite, put him in Mind, That were
From doing Hurt to him, or his, are free.
For Proof of which we boldly dare appeal
To his own Servants: May but he so deal

th us, as we by them have dealt, while they
among us fed his Flocks from Day to Day.

1 Sam.
25.

en close your Message thus, *Since we are come*
good Day; Give us, we pray thee, some
thy Provisions: that thy Servants may
Blessing to David, thy Son, convey.

Thus *David's* Servants, unto *Carmel* come,
Nabal spake. But he, with *Aspect grim,*
scornful Tone; said, Who is David!-Who,
Son of *Jesse!* Many Servants do
k, now a-days, each from his Lord, that he
self may, from his due Obedience, free.

would you have me take my Bread and Meat,
visions for my Guests, and Men, to eat)
, I, give them unto such, as I nor know
y. n whence they came, nor whither they will go!

e. his surly Answer did the Men so scare,
eal t they (like *modest Beggars*, as they were)
al pressing further, to their Lord return:
with the Answer, make his Spirits burn.

For

1 Sam. 25. For he no sooner heard, with what despight,
The brutish *Clown* his just request did flight;
But, in a high *Resentment* of th' *Affront*,
(And Resolution to take Vengeance on't)
He to his Soldiers forthwith gave the Word,
Arm, Arm with speed: And, girding on his Sword,
Drew forth *Four Hundred*; which he thought enough
(Leaving the rest to guard the Camp and Stuff
And with a *stormy Mind*, and *Martial Heat*,
March'd on, bestowing many a direful *Threat*
On *Nabal*; who must now not single fall:
But he, and his own Family withall.

In vain, said *David*, have I safely kept
This Fellow's Flocks, while he securely slept.
He might a *civil Answer* sure have sent,
If he, to part with nothing, was so bent.
I'll take such Venge'ance on th' ungrateful Wretch
That others may from him Example fetch.

While thus enraged *David* made such hast
To slay *Nabal*, and his whole House lay wast

pitious Providence, whose piercing Eye
all Mens Deeds, and Thoughts too, from on high,
with a secret, over-ruling Arm,
well from Doing, as Receiving Harm,
his preserve: did now contrive a way,
from shedding guiltless Blood, to stay.
means too oft, through *stupid* Ignorance,
outed are to *Accident*, or Chance,
thoughtless Men: though others clearly see
they are th' Effects of a divine Decree.
which oft through *Instruments* are brought to pass;
this, whereof we now are speaking, was.

for Nabal, though himself a Fool, or Mad
(even his very Name imports) yet had
well-accomplish'd Wife, *discreet* and *wise*,
spoken, full of *vertu'ous* Qualities:
Wre to oft her Husband's *Rudeness* did bewail,
h. seek to hide: Her Name was A BIGAIL.

fast to her a Servant (who had seen and heard
raft al's foul Carriage; and justly fear'd

The

^{1 Sam.}
^{25.} The dire Effects of't) hast'ned, to th' intent,
That she, forewarn'd, the Mischief might prevent

Mistress, said he, *David*, to whom, we know
The Safety of our selves and Flocks we ow;
Who hath so kind a Neighbour been, that, since
He came to live among us, a Defence
He hath been to us, both by Night and Day,
Securing us from Thieves, and Beasts of Prey
This *curteous* Prince hath to our Master sent
Ambassadors, both with a *Complement*
Of *Gratulation*, and a small Request;
That he'd admit him (as an *absent* Guest)
To be *Partaker*, in some sort at least,
Of the Abundance of his Shearing-Feast.

But oh! our Master, who, thou know'st too well
Is so ungovern'd, that if one but tell
A civil Message to him, He will fall
Foul on him, like a Son of *Belial*.
So did he now at *David's* Men let fly
A rude *Invective*, full of *Raillery*

ainst their Master, and them back hath sent

1 Sam.
25.

ty of Food: but full of Discontent.

nsider therefore, *Mistress*, what to do,

the diverting the impending Blow:

Evil, if not stop't, is like to fall

on our *Master*, and, through him, us all.

Not without great Surprize, we may suppose,

attentive Dame did hear such Words as those:

ich she had reason to believe were *true*;

she too well her Husband's Temper knew.

being of a well-composed Mind

all Men just, and to her Husband kind)

did not think it was a proper Season,

h him, of his ill Carri'age, then to reason:

make all hast she could, to go, and try

the Injur'd Prince could pacify.

er Husband therefore not consulted, she

resent took of what might likely be

gain Acceptance, [*Bread, Wine, Flesh* well drest,

Raisins, Parched-Corn] all of the Best,

Ag

In

1 Sam.
25.

In good Proportion; which, on Asses laid,
She sent before her: and, for haft, ne'er staid
Her self to deck; but, in her common Drefs,
Sped after, bending to the Wilderness.

As down the Hill she rode, her watchful Eye
Did *David*, with his Men descending, spy
From th' adverse Hill: at equal Distance set,
They, in the interjacent Valley, met.

Come near to *David*, from her Ass she leapt
And, with submissive Look, first forward stept
A Pace, or two: then *Prostrate* at his Feet
Lying a while; Him thus, at length, did greet

' On me, my Lord, I pray, on me let ly
' The *Punishment* for this *Iniquity*.
' Let not my Lord this Man of *Belial* heed,
' *Nabal*; whose Name and Nature are agree
' So well, that by his Name is well exprest
' The *Folly* which doth in his Bosom rest.

regard him not. But let thine *Handmaid* stand 1 Sam.
25.
twist him and thee; subject to thy Command.
et give me leave, I pray, to speak a Word,
Word in season, to my honour'd Lord:
which shall be nothing but the Truth; that so
you mayst the right State of the Matter know.
or of a Truth, my Lord, I did not see
the *Messengers* that came to Him from thee:
or of the Matter did one Tittle hear,
all they were gone: and then both *Shame & Fear*
d spur me on, to hasten to my Lord,
d bow my Neck unto thy righte'ous Sword.
like, if thou please: Yet give me leave to say,
the Lord will thee avenge another way.
in not thine Hand with Blood, but to the Lord
fer thy Cause; who can, without thy Sword,
venge thy Wrongs; May who seeks ill to thee,
in like Case as *Nabal* soon will be.
hen humbly offering him the things she brought;
Present to accept, she him besought.

And

1 Sam. 25. And raising her Discourse to higher things ;

(Such as concern'd the *Kingdom*) home she brought

The Matter to himself: and thus apply'd

The Case to him ; as if the Prophecy'd.

' Because, my Lord, thou dost his Battles fight

' The Lord of Hosts in thee doth take delight

' He'll make thee a *sure House*, wherein to dwell

' And set thee on the *Throne* of *Israel*.

' Thy Head shall wear the *Israelitish Crown*,

' And thou shalt live and die in high Renown

Then, giving *Saul* some *not unwelcome* Blows,

She thus to *David* her Discourse did close.

' When thou hast found the Lord deal well with thee

' Remember that it was foretold by me.

This said, she stopt. But not before the Lord

Had *David* quite disarm'd (*Not* of his *Sword*,

But) of his *Anger*, and that hot Displeasure,

Which, in his Breast, had boyl'd beyond due Measure

He now is chang'd : His *Heat* is now allay'd

And, looking on fair *Abigail*, he said,

EnA

Blest be the God of *Isra'el*, who this Day
 met thee to meet, and stop me on the way.
 Blessed be thy Advice: and blessed be
 thou too, for giving it. Whereby thou me
 prevented hast from shedding Blood; which I
 do, had'st thou not come, was very nigh.
 Did the Injury too high Resent:
 And, to Revenge as high, was fully bent.
 But now from Thoughts of Violence I cease,
 And gladly send thee back again in Peace.
 Return, fair Dame, return: for I rejoyce,
 At I have heard, and heark'ned to thy Voice
 Thy Vertues good Impressions in me leave;
 And I thy Present gratefully receive.
 Thy wise Behavi'our hath Atonement made,
 For the Offence thy Husband's Rudeness laid.
 Departing, He unto his Camp retir'd;
 To her House: He, Her; She Him admir'd.

1 Sam.
25.

C H A P. VII.

WHEN *Abigail* was gotten Home, she found
Nabal kept open House; All things about
Ev'n to *Profuseness*: such a *lavish* Feast,
As might have Entertain'd a *Royal* Guest.
The Wine so freely flow'd, and He the Cup
So often took; so often turn'd it up:
That He, who was the Master of the Feast,
Had now transform'd himself from *Man* to *Beast*.
He had so freely guzz'led down the Wine,
That he lay snoring, like a drunken *Swine*.

This was no time to speak to him. But when
Next Morn, his little *Sence* return'd agen;
She, in due order, did to him relate
The *Danger* he had scap'd: how near his *Ga*
David's devouring *Sword* had been; How near
They all had been unto a *Massacre*,

st ready to be slaught'erd, and all long
his *rude* Carri'age, and *abusive* Tongue.

1 Sam.
25.

This he no sooner heard, but strait the Thought
Danger, he upon himself had brought
though now he knew 'twas over) struck a Dart
to his *mean*, and *too unmanly* Heart.

Spirits sank : and in some Ten Days time,
by the Lord, his Life went for his Crime.

so great a Man, so *strange* a Death, so near
David's Camp, must quickly reach his Ear.
Which when he heard, he blest the Lord, that he
both from *Self-avenging* kept him free :
also had, by an immediate Stroke,
ended his Cause ; and *Nabal's* Heart had broke,

then recollecting what a goodly Dame
with Beauty, Wisdom, Vertue, Youth and Fame
(named) *Abigail* to him appear'd,
(to divert the Storm she justly fear'd)

1 Sam.
25.

She, as a *Suppliant*, the other Day,
Although with Tears bedew'd, before him lay;
Love kindled in his Heart a *Noble* Flame,
With warm Desir'es after the *lovely* Dame.
Wherefore he forthwith did to her dispatch
Ambassadors to treat an happy Match
Between them; Let her know how *chast* a Flame
Possess'd his Breast, and Court her in his Name
Conduct her safe, that she might be his Wife
Partaker of his Fortunes, during Life.

The Message told: Wife *Abigail*, who knew
How *Great*, how *Good*, how *Wise*, how *Just*, how
Prince *David* was; How *Pious* and how *Devout*
To *God*, and also to the *Crown* how *near*;
Did not take State upon her, nor require
Time to Consider, and be *Courted* higher.
But, by an humble Phrase, express'd Consent;
And mounting, well attended, with them went
To *David*, who, with Joy, did her receive:
And each, in Heart, did to the other cleave.

About this time too, or not long before,
David (who long had been afflicted sore
for loss of *Michal*; and now hopeless grown,
that he should e'er enjoy her as his own)
married *Ahinoam*, a goodly Dame,
Jezreel, who out of *Judah* came,
that he now was doubly Wiv'd, and might
their sweet Conversation take delight.

1 Sam. 1
25.

At once possessed was the Princely Boy,
Brother's Beauty, and of Father's Joy.
The Brother's Beauty couch'd was in the Name
the most beauteous Jezreelitish Dame.
The Father's Joy in *Abigail* did sound;
whom whatever could raise Joy was found.
This made him *Michal's* Absence better bear;
Supply'd by Two, so vertu'ous, and so fair.
Her, her Father (that he more might vex
David, and his State the more perplex)
to another giv'n: and did constrain
unwilling Dame her Nuptial Bed to stain.

1 Sam. 25. O Impio'us Man! who gave her for a Snare

To David (as he stuck not to declare *)

* 1 Sam.

18. 21. Which she not proving: In *revengeful* Rage,
He to another did her soon engage.

C H A P. VIII.

1 Sam.
26.

A Time of Rest had David had, while Saul
Had been attending *Samu'el's* Funeral.
A time of Joy; wherein he might, at leasure,
Refresh himself with undisturbed Pleasure.
But now his Troubles hasten on again:
And he must now repeat his former Pain.
He now for *self-Defence* had need prepare,
Lest Saul be on him e're he be aware.

For Saul no sooner was to Gibeah got,
But the false Zephites thither to him trot;
Inform him, David doth near them reside,
And in their Woods himself, and Men, doth hide

er their Service, urge the forward King
come; and with him Strength enough to bring.

1 Sam.
26.

This Invitation, added to the Fire
Saul's own Breast, kindled so strong Desire
taking *David*; that he forthwith rose
in *Gibe'ah*, and in quest of *David* goes:
leading *Three Thousand* with him, Men well-try'd,
valiant and Strong; in whom he could confide.
He into the Woods of *Ziph* did draw,
and pitched in the Hill of *Hachitah*.
David, mean while, informed by his Scouts,
that *Saul* lay Camped somewhere thereabouts,
that, in the Ev'ning forth, a View to take
Saul's great Host, and Observations make.
When he came to the Camp, he saw where *Saul* did ly,
in the Trench, His *Spear* just sticking by
Bolster; and a *Cruse of Water* near,
Thirst to quench, and Spirits also cheer.

1 S. m.
26.

This seen, and he not seen, strait back he goes
Fetches *Abishai*: unto whom he shows
Saul, *Abner*, all the Soldiers fast a-sleep;
No *Centinel* awake, the Watch to keep.

Fain would *Abishai* strike the fatal Stroke,
Which should have *David* freed from *Saul*'s hard
Full hard he begg'd, that *David* would give
He, with one Blow might *Saul* of Life bereave

But Noble *David* (in whose gen'rous Breast
Loyal and pious Principles did rest)
Flatly forbid it, saying, God forbid.
That I should so my self from Trouble rid.
The Lord forbid, that I mine hand should fling
Against the Lord's Anointed. Such a Wretch
May I ne'er be! I'll leave him to the Lord,
Who works by various Ways, besides the Sword,
But take, said he, his Water-Pot and Spear:
By which my Innocency may appear

That, undiscov'ed, done; they strait Retire 1 Sam.
26.
to a safe standing, whence (the *Ground* being higher)
they might be seen, and heard. *David* doth call
loud to *Abner*, *Saul's* brave Generall.

Awaking, said, Who's that, whose *Tongue* doth ring
shrill? Speak softly: lest thou wake the King.

Ah! Art not thou a valiant Man? But where,
and *David*, is thy *Vigilance* and *Care*:

there came One unto the King's Bed-side

whom none of all your *Centinels* descry'd)

whom the King might have been slain, if I

had not him fav'd. *Who now deserves to die?*

and that the Truth thereof may plain appear,

here his *Cruse* of Water, and his *Spear*.

By this time *Saul*, awaking with the Noise,

startling at the sound of *David's* Voice,

said, *Is it thou*, my Son? Yes, yes, it is,

and *David*: wherein have I done amiss?

Since I to thee, O King, am always true:

why? O why dost thou thus my Life pursue?

If

1 Sam. 26. If thou thus Hunt'st me by the Lord's Command

May he accept an *Off'ring* at my Hand!

But if this Mischief, by the Sons of Men,

Be rais'd against me, then, I say, O then

Curs'd of the Lord be they! for lo! they strive

Me from the Heritage of God to drive:

Bidding me, to serve other Gods, be gone.

Yet I resolve to serve the Lord alone.

Wherefore I trust the Lord preserve me shall,

That to the Earth my Blood may never fall.

How mean a thing it is, That *Isra'el's* King

An armed Host into the Field should bring,

To seek a *Flea!* Are Men of Wisdom wont,

With Armies, after *Partridges* to hunt!

No greater I, than these, may counted be,

If I, *great Prince*, compared am to thee

Not more did *David's Rhetorick* prevail

On *Saul*, than that which never us'd to fail

With Him, and such as He, the fight of's Sp

In *David's* Hand: whereby he knew how near

Threat have

id to him had been; whilst, fast a-sleep,
 lay at *David's* Mercy (none to keep
 Stroke off from him) who might, with one Blow,
 e sent his Soul down to the Shades below;
 did not hurt him. This the better Part
Saul's ill Nature reach't: and in his Heart
 led a Spark of *Gratefulness*; from whence
 ng an *Acknowledgement* of his Offence.
 kly, as once before, in like Distress,
 Error, Folly, Sin He doth confess.

1 Sam.
26.

my Son *David*, sinned have, said He;
 g thy Pardon: Pray, Return to me.
 well I know, That I have play'd the *Fool*,
 broke the Precepts taught in Vertues School,
 never more will I against thee rise:
 use my Life was precious in thine Eyes.

he Lord, said *David*, once again had put
 in my Pow'r. I eas'ly might have cut
 Thread asunder. God so deal with me,
 have *Faithful* been, and *Kind* to thee.

When

1 Sam.
26.

When *David* ceas'd, *Saul* did his *Blessing* give
Wishing He in Prosperity might live.
Then parting, *Saul* returned to his Place:
And *David* to his Camp directs his Pace.

The End of the SECOND BOOK.

DAVID

DAVIDEIS.

BOOK III.

CHAPTER I.

Ong had the *Hebrew Common-Wealth* been torn ^{1 Sam.}
 By *Civil Fars*, since first the *sacring* Horn ^{27.}
David's Head, from Rev'rend *Samuel's* Hand,
 emptie'd been, by God's express Command.
 While the tall Son of *Kish*, with armed Force
 (the Flow'r of *Isra'els* Foot and Horse)
 nothing unattempted, to bring down
 the young Son, the Rival of his Crown:
 the young Son, who therefore perish must,
 Cause he was Great, Valiant, Wise and Just.

Who

1 Sam.
27.

Who can recount the *Jeo'pardies*, which he
Was daily in, while he was fain to flee
From *Cave* to *Rock*; from one *Hold* to another
And Safety for his aged *Sire* and *Mother*
In *Moab* seek; Himself enforc't to fly
To *Achish*, *Isra'el's* utter Enemy!
Who the great *Philistin* so lately slew,
Is glad now to a *Philistin* to sue
For Shelter; driven, by *Domestick* Foes,
To beg, from *Foreign* Enemies, Repose.
Adullam, *Mezpeh*, *Hareth*, *Keilah*, *Ziph*,
En-gedi, *Paran*, and the craggy *Cliff*
Of *Hachilah*, the *Rocks*, where wild *Goats* be
Witness the Hardships born by *Jesse's Seed*.

A *Sabbath* now of Years was fully run,
Since *David's* causeless Troubles first begun;
When the *Almighty*, having *thoroughly* prov'd
The *Faith* and *Love*, of him he *thoroughly* lov'd
Said, 'Tis enough! And with that Word decreed
The Means, whereby his *David* should be freed

1 Sam.
28.

The *Philistins* again invade the Land,
The tall, but trembling King is at a stand.
When God departed, He of God is left,
Of Counsel, and of Courage both, bereft.
That Course, in this so great a Streight, to steer
He wist not; 'twixt Necessity and Fear.
The Prophet, from whose Heav'en-inspired Breast,
Counsel did use to flow, was gone to Rest.
Nor by URIM did, in that Extream,
Conscience to give an Answer, nor by DREAM;
Though fought unto. In vain doth man expect
Assistance by the Hand he doth reject.

Deserted thus of God, the faithless King
Himself into the Devil's Arms doth fling;
Consults a Witch, and her employs to raise
The Prophet Samuel; who many Days
With his Fathers slept. O blinded Wretch!
To think a Silly Witch had Pow'r to fetch
The sacred Prophet from his peaceful Rest;
That Devils, after Death, could Saints molest.

Yet

1 Sam. 28. Yet by the *Apparition*, which she brought,
 Was *Saul* of his approaching Ruin taught;
 And found it true. The *Philistins* prevail,
 1 Sam. 31. And *Isra'el* both of Strength and Courage fail.
 They fly. The King (his Sons first slain) imbr
 In his own Blood; and close at Heels pursu'd:
 (Left by th' *Uncircumcis'd* he be abus'd,)
 Bids his own *Squire* dispatch him; He refus'd.
Despair then prompting, on his Sword he fell.
 'Twas just: for he did against God rebell.

Such was the End of *disobedient Saul*,
 Whom God, to *hanfell Israel's Crown*, did Call
 For not performing God's exprefs Command,
 Perish he must: And that by his own Hand.
 He that spar'd *Agag*, doom'd by God to Dea
 With his *own* Hand, lets out his vital Breath.
Monarchs, beware. Let this great *Monarch's* F
 For ever be a Warning to you all.

CHAP. II.

WHILE this so great Discomfiture befell, *Hyste-
rosis.*
For their King's sake, the Host of *Israel*;
The Streams of reeking Blood did float the Plain,
Gilboa was loaded with the slain:
All-commanding Providence took Care,
That his Anointed Prince should not be there:
By an extraordinary Way,
To save him from Danger, and from Guilt that Day.

The great Disposer of all human Things,
At his Pleasure, makes, and unmakes Kings;
Hath the Hearts of Princes in his Hand,
Can our Foes, to be our Friends, command;
And the Heart of Gath's fierce King inclin'd
To David, in Affliction, kind.

1 Sam.
27.

Achish did *Ziklag* unto *David* give,
Where He, with his Retinue, safe might live:
Heap'd Favours on him, promis'd great Rewards
No less than to be Captain of his Guards.

1 Sam.
28.

But he must to the Battle with him go,
And help to give his King an Overthrow.

How great a Streight must *David* now be
Having no other Choice, than Death, or Sin!
Death, if he should refuse to Fight: And Sin
If he 'gainst *Israel* fought for *Philistin*.
Thus forely Exercis'd, it may be ghest,
Such Thoughts as these might fill his troubled Breast.

How can I draw my Sword against my King
And not upon my self the *Odia'm* bring
Of foul Rebellion! I, who never durst
Attempt his Life; although he fought mine
I dare not (knowing him by God appointed)
Stretch forth mine Hand against the Lord's Anointed.
I well remember how my Heart me smote,
When I but cut the Skirt from off his Coat.

What may I then expect, but Wrath Divine,
He should fall by any Stroke of mine!

1 Sam.
28.

But say, the King were safe: Yet how can I,
Whose Sword hath *Troops* of *Philistins* made fly;
Who bought my *Michal* with the lecherous Skins
Four times Fifty slaught'ring *Philistins*:
Who the daring'st *Champion* of their Crew
(they looking on) in single Combat flew;
(God assisting) with a single Sling,
V'rance did unto my Country bring:
I now for the *Philistins* go Fight,
I draw my Sword against an *Isra'elite*!
I go help God's Heritage to bring
Thralldom to th' uncircumcised King!
I, upon my self, contract the Guilt
Of all the *Isra'elitish* Blood; which spilt
That Day may be! The Lord forbid that I
Should ever yield to such a Villany.

But yet, If I refuse my Men to lead
To *Achish* to the Field: Nor yet can plead

1 Sam.
28.

A *fair* Excuse; what can I think, but He
Will thenceforth treat me as his Enemy!
What can I then expect for me, and mine,
But *present Death*! Or that he will Confine
Us to some *loathsome Dungeon*, untill
He may us, with more lingring Torments, kill

Shall I, this Mischief to prevent, comply
With his Commands, at least wise *seemingly*!
Shall I unto my present Fortune yeild;
And briskly draw my Forces to the Field!
Shall I, with *Achish*, to the Battle go;
As if I were to *Israel* a Foe:
Then, when the Battle's joined, *wheel about*,
And help to give the *Philistins* a Rout!
No! That were *base*: And I had rather dy,
Than stain mine Honour with such *Treachery*.
Exil'd from mine own Land, I hither fled,
To seek a Shelter for my hunted Head.
I found a *kind Reception* with this Prince:
And in his *Favour* I have stood e'er since.

Bounty hath to me extended been,
 less than if I were a *Philistin*.
 me he doth repose a *special Trust* :
 d God forbid I should be *less than Just* !
 grateful, to a Proverb, I should be,
 kiould I betray him to his Enemy.
 th rather choose ! than such an *Infamy*
 y David, on an *Israelite* should ly.

1 Sam.
 28.

While *David* thus did many Thoughts revolve,
 t knowing what, with Safety to resolve :
 ve, in the *Rere*, with *Achish* on to go,
 d wait on God, for Counsel what to do ;)
 e God of *David* his Deliv'rance wrought,
 d from that Service fairly off him brought.

The *Princes* of the *Philistins*, to whom
 eir King's new *Favourite* was now become
 Eye-sore ; not well pleas'd before, to see
 art-Favours heap'd upon a *Refugee* :
 d now, observing, that their easie King
 t only *David*, and his Men, did bring

1 Sam.
28.

To Battle, but had Rang'd them by his Side,
 As if in them He chiefly did Confide;
 Their *Emulation* could no longer hide,
 But, with a discontented *Murmur*, cry'd,
What do these Hebrews here! The King would fain
 Their Discontents allay: but try'd in vain.
 The more he *David's* Courage, Conduct, prais'd
 The more against him he their *Choler* rais'd.
 Their Wrath brake forth. *This Fellow make*, said they
Return unto his Place; lest he betray
Us, in the Heat of Fight: and, by that Wile,
Himself unto his Master reconcile.
 For, by what means, can he procure his Peace
 With *Saul*, so well as by the Heads of these?
Command him therefore back: for surely know,
He shall not, with us, to the Battle go.
 They stoutly urge. The King is fain to yield
 And *David* forthwith is dismiss't the Field.
 Thus God, when he his Saints hath throughly try'd
 Can unthought Ways for their Escape provide.

C H A P. III.

JOY now abounding in his *thankful* Heart,
 Jesse's fair Son doth from the Camp depart:
 And towards *Ziklag*, with a nimble Pace,
 Marches; his loyal *Consorts* to Embrace.
 Ere the Sun thrice set, his Joy was check'd,
 A *Disaster* he did least expect.

I Sim.
 30.

Approaching near the Place, where stood the Town,
 The Town he could not see: for *It was down*.
 Down to the Ground was it in *Asbes* laid:
 And all that was, therein away convey'd.
 No living Soul was left, that might inform
 Who were the Authors of this dismal Storm,
 Who can conceive the Horror that possess't,
 That surprizing Sight, poor *David's* Breast!!

^{1 Sam.}
^{30.} *Sensless* he stood, like one that's struck with Thund
Fill'd with *Astonishment*, and silent *Wonder*.
His *Blood* retiring to his *trembling* Heart,
Left a *cold Sweat* upon each outward Part.
Heart-rending Sorrows did, without controul,
Imprison all the Powers of his Soul.
Grief forc't a *Vent* at last, and out did pour,
Thorow his *fainting* Eyes, an *easing Show'r*.
Tears flow'd amain: He wept, until the Store
Of Tears was spent; and he could weep no more

When *Sighs* did Passage to his Grief afford
And *Speech* was to his *falt'ring* Tongue restor'd
He more *obdurate* must have been, than *Stone*
Whose Heart had not been tend'red with his Mo
The Loss of *Ziklag* something was; much more
That of the People, with their wealthy Store
But, with the deepest *Groans*, he did bewail
His lost *Abinoam* and *Abigail*.
His Sorrows to compleat, his little Host
(For there was no Man that had nothing lost

ere at the Point to *Mutinee*, and fall,
th Stones, upon their *guiltless* Generall.

1 Sam.
30.

His *Reason* now did to return begin,
t of that *Stupor* Grief had plung'd it in;
d calling back, with nimble Diligence,
Spirits, and his Intellectu'al Sence:
Piety did first it self exert;
e *Token of a right-Religious Heart.*

Fear, *Bane of noble Actions*, off he shakes,
d in the Lord, his God, *fresh Courage* takes.
Blood enkindles, and his *Spirits* boyl
th strong Desire to regain the Spoil,
e living Spoil, (If Life did yet remain
his Rap'd *Consorts*, and their *living Train*.)
flaming Eye sparkles an angry *Threat*,
d just *Revenge* his active *Pulses* beat.

et would he not on this *Adventure* move,
he had try'd how God would it approve.

How

1 Sam.
30.

How Happy should we be! How would Success
Crown all our *Actions*! How would God us bless
If, in whatever we do undertake,
We first the Lord our *Counsellor* would make.

The *Priest* is call'd. The sacred *Ephod* brought
And, in his own Way, is God's Counsel sought
The Answer is propitio'us. Out he went,
With his *Six Hundred Men*. *Two Hundred*, for
With their hard March, were of the rest forsook
Not able to get over *Befor-Brook*.

Not far had *David*, with the rest, advanc'd,
When an *Egyptian*, in the Field, they chanc'd
To find; who, being sick, and Hunger-pin'd
Was by those sacking *Rovers* left behind.
By him (refresh'd first with long-wanted Food
And Speech recovering) they understood
That their *Old Enemy*, th' *Amalekite*,
It was, had done them this so great Despite.
By him too (Oath of Safety first be'ing give'n
Oaths then were lawful, by the God of Heav'n

David guided to the Place, where they,
in *Merriment*, securely lay.
Ziklag's *Dainties* they a *Feast* had made,
with their *Plunder*, drove a *merry Trade*.
in *Eating* They to *Dancing* fell, and *Drinking*;
soon they must the *Reck'ning* pay, not thinking,
then, on a suddain, *David* in doth pour
Men upon them, like a *Thunder-Show'r*.

Have you observ'd in what a furious Way,
he leaps upon his *trembling* Prey:
when th' *Amalekites* the *Hebrews* flew,
in Lyons fiercer; having in their View
their *Captiv'd* Wives and Children, and the Fire
smoking *Ziklag*, to inflame their Ire.

For all next Days Evening the Slaughter held.
The Earth with slain was cover'd Rivers swell'd
in Blood of *Amalek*, that thither ran.
Of them all there scaped not a Man,
twice two Hundred, who (perhaps, by Night)
mounted on Camels, sav'd themselves by Flight.

During

1 Sam.
30.

During the time this *bloody Work* did last,
The *Captiv'd Dames*, with Hands and Eyes up-ca
Implor'd the God of *Israel* to bless
The Arms of their Deliverer with Success.
But when destroy'd they saw their Enemies,
Their *thankful Joy* brake through their *sparkling* Ey
And, as *ANDROMEDA*, when, from her Ch
Releas't, she saw the *frightful Monster* slain:
So look't *Abinoam*, so *Abigail*,
When they their dearest *David* saw prevail.

The Slaughter over, and the Field now clear
So that no living Enemy appear'd ;
The *Victors*, and their *new-redeemed Dames*
(Those *Love*, These *Love* and *Gratitude* inflam
Together run, with nimble-footed Paces,
And clasp each other, in most sweet Embrace
When they had paid the Debt long due to Love
The *Hebrew Captain* did from thence removed, wi
And toward *Ziklag* took again his way,
With his recov'ed Spoil, and the rich Prey

Amalek. To *Besor-Brook* they bend,
 here his recruited Men did him attend.
 them, as to the rest, he doth divide
 their Share o' th' Booty; and to *Ziklag* hy'd:
 from whence he, of the Spoil, unto his Friends,
 all the Coasts about, rich Presents sends.

1 Sam.
 30.

CHAP. IV.

TWO Days in *Ziklag* now had *David* stay'd, ^{2 Sam.}
 Viewing the *Ruins* which the Fire had made.
 most his Thoughts on *Isra'el's* Camp did run,
 mingling the worst; not knowing what was done:
 when on the Third, Lo, one with Running spent,
 earth on his Head, and all his Garments rent)
 came from the Camp, and falling at his Feet,
 with good News, as he suppos'd, him greet.

He told, how *Israel* from the Battle fled;
 that of the Souldiers there lay many dead:

That

2 Sam. 1. That *Saul*, and *Jonathan* his Son, were slain.
 At those great Names, *David* could not refrain
 But forthwith ask't him, By what means he knew
 What he reported of *Saul's* Death was true.
 He, hoping some Advantage would accrew,
 Confes't that he, at his Request, him slew:
 And to Confirm the Truth of what he said,
Saul's Crown and *Bracelett* at his Feet he laid.

As one that, stooping something up to take
 Claps his unwary Hand upon a Snake,
 Doth, with the suddain Fright, first backward
 (His scared Blood retiring to his Heart)
 Then, at a further Distance, *trembling* stands,
 With *fainting* Countenance, and *Palsied* Hands
 So startled *David* at th' unlook't for Sight
 Of that which some would gaze on with Delight
 Th' *Imperial Crown*; by which he surely knew
 That what the Fellow told him was too true
 Grief seiz'd his Spirit. He, with Garments
 Together with his Men, for *Saul* did mourn.

Saul he mourn'd, though Saul to him had been ^{2 Sam.}
 mercer Foe, than any *Philistin*.
 1.

Saul he mourn'd, though Saul his Life had fought,
 him into extreamest Dangers brought.

Saul he mourn'd, though by the Death of Saul,
 knew the Kingdom unto him would fall.
 as gen'rous Minds, e'en with their Enemies,
 adverse Fortunes can't but sympathize.

For *Jonathan*, as for an only Brother,
 as a Virgin for her constant Lover:

mourned He. For 'twixt them too had past
 Friendship, that *beyond the Grave* must last.

ortal Friendship! Never Two were twyn'd
 e close; They had *Two Bodies*; But *One Mind*.
 ocus to *Achilles* was less dear.

e to *Hercules* not half so near.

Pylades did more *Orestes* love:

Damon to his *Pythias* truer prove.

Pirithous more close not *Theseus*

cleave; nor *Nisus* to *Euryalus*:

Than

^{2 Sam.}
^{1.} Than did to *David* Princely *Jonathan*,
From the blest Day their Friendship first began
There Souls were so commix't, that none could
Which lov'd most truly; either lov'd so well.
Jonathan's Love to *David* strongly ran:
And *David's* flow'd as strong to *Jonathan*.
So that, e'en yet, we, in a Proverb have it
[*Strong as the Loves of Jonathan and David.*]
'Twas for his Friend; for such a Friend, as Men
Ne'er had before: 'Twas for his *Jonathan*
That *David* mourn'd. And who enough could mourn
The Death, *untimely Death*, of such an One.

But, from *Particulars*, his Grief did call
For Tears, for *Israel* in generall.
The House of *Israel* was wounded deep.
What *Isra'elite* could hear it, and not weep!
Not weep a Flood! The People of the Lord
Are fallen by th' uncircumcised's Sword.
This to his Sorrow set the Flood-gates ope:
And to his *melting* Grief gave *boundless* Scope

Nor would his *single* Sorrow serve the turn: 2 Sam.
2.
all his Men together with him mourn.
 His Death and *Jonathan's* he did not fail,
 In most *pathetick* Language, to bewail:
 Sure, the *stif'ling* Grief, that fill'd his Breast
Isra'el, could not be in Words exprest.

When Sorrow now its force had somewhat spent,
 Flowing Tears to Grief had given vent:
 Messenger, who did the Tidings bring,
 Confest that He did kill the King;
 Self-convicted, unto Death appointed,
 Slain; for having slain the Lord's Anointed.
 Justice done, *David* from *Ziklag* rose,
 God's Direction; and to *Hebron* goes.

C H A P. V.

2 Sam.
2.

HA I L ! Noble Hero, Favourite of Heav'n
To whom a Royal Diadem is given !
Welcome to *Hebron* ! Lo, thy People bring
Their Presents to their new-Elected King.

No sooner was it known, that *Jesse's* Son
Had *Ziklag* left, and was to *Hebron* gone ;
But *Judah's* Nobles thither did resort :
And, with a splendid Train, did fill his Court
Judah, the Tribe to which he did belong :
Judah, the Tribe of all the Tribes most strong

The Men of *Judah*, as with one Consent,
From all their Cities unto *Hebron* went.
They went, with Hearts full of Affection
His safe Arrival to Congratulate.

and, thither come, they *David* did install
ing over *Judah*, in the room of *Saul*.
the sacred Oyl they on his Temples shed:
and set th' Imperial Crown upon his Head.
the Court they make, and all the City, ring
with joyful Acclamations to their King.

2 Sam.
2.

Scarce were the Coronation-Triumphs o'er;
since the new King his Diadem had wore:
when he again must draw his late-sheath'd Sword.
What are the Joys which human Things afford.

A Son of *Saul*'s surviv'd his Father's Death,
since Twenty Years of Age, nam'd *Ish-bosheth*.
Abner took (*Abner*, the Generall
all the Forces that belong'd to *Saul*)
Abner did to *Mahannaim* bring;
o'er the House of *Isra'el* made him King.

2 Sam.
3.

thus *Israel* and *Judah* were divided,
if either Party with their own King sided.

^{2 Sam.} Hence *Civil* Wars between the Tribes arose:
^{3.} And who *were always* Friends, *are now* grown Fo
They that were link'd by *Nature*, and by *Gr*
Each other now, in Hostile Manner chase,
The Sword devoureth Flesh on either side:
And *Hebrews* Hands in *Hebrews* Blood are dy'd.

Long had these Civil Wars already lasted,
And *Isra'el's* Strength was thereby greatly wast
(For weaker grew the House of *Saul*, the long
The War endur'd, and *David's* House grew strong
When awful Providence, by means unthought
The *War*, and *Faction*, to a *Period* brought.

To *Rizpah*, who had been *Saul's* Concubine,
'Twas thought that *Abner* did too much inclin
This *Ish-bosbeth* Resenting with Disdain,
Charg'd *Abner* that with *Rizpah* he had lain.
High-stomach't *Abner*, who could nothing bro
That touch'd his Honour, such Displeasure too
At this Reproach; that he resolv'd to bring
All *Isra'el* over unto *Judah's* King.

or would he in a Covert Manner go
work: but boldly told his Master so.
thwith to *David* Messengers he sent
make his Peace; and then in Person went
Hebron: after he had first inclin'd
e Isra'elitish Princes to his Mind.

him *David* graciously Receiv'd, and made
Royal Entertainment, while he staid:
then, in Peace dismis't him, to effect
grand Affair, which *Abner* did project.

Not far from *Hebron* yet was *Abner* gone
en *Joab* entred (*David's* Sister's Son)
o, on some Military Enterprize,
absent been, against the Enemies,
h *David's* Men of War (for, over all
Uncle's Forces, he was *Generall*)
having giv'n his Enemy the Foyl,
just Returned, laden with the Spoyl.

2 Sam.
3.

When *Joab* heard, that *Abner* had been there
Receiv'd, and sent away again with Care:
His *Passion* rose so high, it made him fling
Undutiful Reflections on his King.
Zeal he pretended for his Prince's State.
But underneath did lurk *Revenge* and *Hate*.
For 'twas not long before, at *Gibeon-Fight*,
That *Abner* and his Men bei'ng put to Flight;
Asahel, *Joab's* Brother, him so hard
Pursu'd, that *Abner*, standing on his Guard,
In's own Defence, and fore against his Will,
To save himself, was forc'd the Youth to kill.
His Brother's Blood, in *Joab's* Eye still reeks,
And he a Season to Revenge it seeks.

He after *Abner* sends, in *David's* Name,
(Unknown to *David*) to come back. He came
No sooner come, but *Joab*, in the Gate
(With *feigned* Kindness hiding inward Hate)
As if he had some Secret to impart,
Took him aside, and stab'd him to the Heart

Thus fell the valiant *Abner*, thus did die
Abner Commander, through *base* Treachery.
 As princely *Joab* did his Honour stain
 With *Abner's* Noble Blood, ignobly slain.

2 Sam.
 3.

When unto *David's* Ear the News was brought,
 The *foul* Murther, by his Nephew wrought,
 Pierc'd his Royal Heart; Apt Words he lack't
 To speak his just Abhorrence of the Fact:
 In unstrained Terms, himself he free'd
 From being *Conscious* of so foul a Deed.

I, and my Kingdom, guiltless are, he said,
Abner's Blood: on *Joab* be it laid.
 And may it on his House for ever rest:
 May Sword or Famine Him and his infect.
 May his Posterity be never free
 From leprous Ulcer, or Infirmary.

When for the Funerall he Order gave,
 Wept a Show'r of Tears on *Abner's* Grave.

^{2 Sam.}
^{3.} *Joab*, to rend his Cloaths, he did Command,
And at the Grave, begirt with Sackcloth, stand
After the Bie'r Himself in Mourning went:
And, in an *Elegie*, his Grief did vent.
The People joyn: All over *Abner* weep:
And, for his Death, a solemn Mourning keep.

C H A P. VI.

^{2 Sam.}
^{4.} **T**OO late did *Ish-boseth* his Error find,
In having alienated *Abner's* Mind
From his Affairs: Too late did he repent
His hasty Rashness, when he saw th' Event.

'Twas not without good Cause, that Nature
A double Guard before the Tongue: and yet
That nimble Member (it's too often found)
Nor *Lips*, nor *Teeth* can keep within its bound
But out it breaks. *A few unwary Words*
More Mischief do, than twice so many Swords.

Saul's inconfid'rate Son, 'tis like, ne'er thought ^{2 Sam.}
 Taunt would that Effect, it did, have wrought. ^{4.}
 Martial Spirits no *Affront* can brook,
 at, on their *Honour*, like a *Stain* doth look.
 and therefore e'en Kings themselves had need,
 w they their Subjects disoblige, take heed.

When *Fame* had sounded *Abner's* hasty Death
 to the Ears of drooping *Isb-bosbeth*,
 Trembling seiz'd him, and his Spirits fail;
 Hands grew Feeble, and his Face grew pale:
 and He, though yet no Danger did appear,
 himself abandon'd to *unmanly* Fear.
 His *abject* Mind made some neglect him more,
 who did not over-value him before.

Two Sons of *Rimmon* (the *Beerothite*,
 Off-spring of the wily *Gibeonite*)
 were under *Isb-bosbeth*, in some Command:
 one was, I take it, Captain of a Band.
 He having, some how, Intimation got,
 that *Israel's* Princes a *Revolt* did plot

And

2 Sam.
4.

And hoping to advance their Fortunes higher
With *David*, did against their Lord Conspire.

'Twas Summer, and the Weather sultry hot;
The King into his Bed-Chamber was got:
And, being both with *Heat* and *Grief* oppress'd,
Had thrown himself upon his Bed, to rest.
Thither, at Noon, the two *Affassines* came
(*Baanah* one's, *Rechab* was th' other's Name.)
Their Places give Admittance. In they go,
And, through the well-known Ways, they pass
The Room, where *Ish-bosheth* supinely lay
Upon his Bed. Him on his Bed they slay.
Then, from his bleeding Corps, his *Head* they take
And, through the Plain, with Speed for *Hebron* make

Arriv'd, to *David* forthwith they address:
And, in such Terms as these, themselves express
Behold, Great Prince, the Head of Ish-bosheth,
The Son of Saul, thy Foe, who sought thy Death:
And with that Word, the mangled Head they shew
A gashly Sight, all in gore-Blood imbru'd.

Sight struck *Horror* in the Standers by:

2 Sam.

Indignation flam'd in *David's* Eye.

4.

paus'd: then, with a *Tone* that made them quake;

this Effect he to the *Traytors* spake.

As the Lord lives, who hath my Soul, said he,
redeem'd out of all *Adversity*;

then one to *Ziklag* came, and *Tydings* brought

that *Saul* was dead (who, for his *Tidings*, thought,

at my *Hand*, a good *Reward* should gain)

paus'd him to be seized on, and slain.

How much more then, when *Wicked* Men have shed

Righteous Person's Blood, upon his *Bed*,

his own *House*: Shall I not now require

you his Blood; and make your *Death* your *Hire*?

his said, at his *Command*, his ready *Guard*

Treason, with the *Traitors* *Death*, reward.

his *Hands* and *Feet* cut off, upon a *Spear*

hang'd in publick, to make others fear.

Justice done to *Ish-bosheth*, his *Head*

owner's *Sepulcher* was buried.

The

2 Sam.
4.

The Israelitish Elders, who before
To *David* did incline ; do now much more.
Their Way is open'd by th' untimely Death
Of their own King, unhappy *Ish-bosheth*.
To *Hebron* therefore they themselves betake ;
And to this purpose unto *David* spake.

*Behold, Great Prince, thy Bone and Flesh are new
And e'en while Saul was King, yet Thou wast he
That led'st us out, and brought'st us in again :
Be pleas'd therefore over us to Reign.
For God hath said, Thou shalt my People feed ;
And be a Captain over Isra'el's Seed.*

2 Sam.
5.

Their Message *David*, with Majestick Grace
Receiv'd ; and all the *Elders* did embrace.
A solemn League before the Lord they make
That He not Them, nor They should Him forsake
Then forth the *Consecrated Oyl* they bring,
And over *Israel* Anoint him King.
All Hearts are glad. Joy Reigns in ev'ry Eye
Which Shouts, and publick Triumphs testify.

the vocal Nymph the News to Fame reports,
whose Trumpet sounds it into Foreign Courts.

2 Sam.
5.

When the *Solemnities* were at an End,
which on the *Coronation* did attend,
and all things settled; the twice Crowned King
his Royal Army to the Field did bring:

where with th' insulting *Jebusites* he beat;

and made *Jerusalem* his Royal Seat.

the *Philistins* he smote, who were so bold,
to come and Brave him, even in his Hold.

the *Moabites* he fully did subdue.

2 Sam.
8.

and mighty *Hadadezer* overthrew.

the *Edomites* he Tributary made.

and *Syria*, having smarted, was afraid.

and hisive *Ammon* he chastiz'd, and tam'd:

2 Sam.

and, for his Prowess, through the East was fam'd.

10.

and yet not more for that, than for his Love,

for *Jonathan*, which did it self approve

and after *Jonathan*, unhappy Prince,

his Battle fell; not for his own Offence,

But

^{2 Sam.}
^{10.} But for his Father's. *Friendship that is brave*
Doth Death survive; and lives beyond the Grave

^{2 Sam.}
^{9.} *David*, now having got a little rest
Bethinks him how his Love may be exprest
To *Jonathan*, his dear deceased Friend,
In his Posterity: And, to that end,
Asks, if there yet was any left at all,
Descended of the Family of *Saul*,
To whom he, for the sake of *Jonathan*,
Might Kindness shew. They call to Mind a
Whose Name was *Ziba*: Him they seek and
To Court; and straitway he inform'd the King
That *Jonathan* had yet a Son, by Name
Mephibosheth, who of his Feet was lame.
For he, poor Child, when Tidings came that
And *Jonathan* were slain, receiv'd a Fall
Out of his Nurser's Arms; when, in the Frig
She sought to save him by too hasty Flight.
By which *Disaster* he, alas! became
A Cripple all his Days; of both Feet lame.

Him *David* sent for; and, with special Grace 2 Sam. 9.
 receiving, did at his own Table place:
 caring him, He, for his Father's sake,
 the Care of him, as of his own, would take.
 Then all his Grandfather's and Father's Lands
 restoring to him: *Ziba* he commands
 to take the Charge thereof; the Land to Till,
 and make the best of't, to his utmost Skill:
 and bring the *Profits* to his Master's Son;
 that he, in handsome Port, might live thereon.

Mephibosheth, with Kindness overcome,
 lame in Feet, was neither *Rude*, nor *Dumb*:
 both by *Gesture*, and *Expression*, shew'd
 the highest Marks of humble *Gratitude*.

C H A P. VII.

2 Sam.
11.

THE highest Pitch of Honour now attain
 Had *David*, and the Sov'reign Power gain
Thrice had the Consecrating Oyl been shed,
 In solemn wise, on his Majestick Head.
 His Temples tinctur'd with a double Crown.
 The House of *Saul*, his *Rival*, quite brought down
 His *Enemies*, of him, did stand in aw.
 And to his *Neighbours* round he gave the Law
 His *Arms* brought *Conquest* home. His very Name
 Struck *Terror*, where his Armies never came.
 Secure he sat, upon his awful Throne.
 By *Others* Fear'd: Beloved by his *Own*.
 All things, to make him Happy, did conspire.
 Nor lack'd he ought that Reason could desire.

But how *unsafe* is *Greatness*! Ah, how nigh
 Unto *Prosperity* doth *Danger* lie!

Begun

quiling *Pleasures* do on Greatness wait.
Vice lies lurking still at *Pleasure's* Gate.
it slips (And hard it is, I doubt,
ere *Pleasures* have *free Course*, to keep it out)
Virtue doth insensibly destroy.
brings forth *Treble Grief* for *Single Joy*.
David found: and e're he was aware,
caught, caught and held fast in *Pleasure's Snare*.

came to pass, one Eve'ning, when the Heat
ed was (which, in that Clime, was great)
David, from his easful Bed, arose;
to the airy Roof of's Palace goes.
e walking to and fro, his wandring Eye
ked Woman, *Bathing*, did espy.

he Sight surpriz'd him. Yet he *Pleasure* took,
hat *attractive* Object still to look:
never had he seen so rare a Creature,
Shape, Complexion, and for lovely Feature.
liant Beauty sate upon her Face.
mov'd her Body with a *moving* Grace.

L

Upon

^{2 Sam.}
^{11.} Upon her Shoulders hung, in Curls, her Hair,
As well in Colour, as Proportion, *fair*.
All Parts were taking. But I cover those,
Which her disrobed Posture did disclose.

The Sight set *David's* Nature all on Fire:
His Breast inflaming with *undue* Desire.
He Look't and Burnt: He Burnt and Look't ag
Nor Power had from Looking to refrain.
His *Eyes* betray'd his *Heart*. Now yeild he m
Himself a *Captive* to unruly *Lust*.

Ah! How unsafe it is to let the Eye
Into the Privacies of Women Pry!
How dangerous to let the *Devil* catch
The Mind a *Roving*, from its inward Watch
David was guarded strong enough, no doubt
To hinder any *Mischief* from *without*.
But *he* that will secured be from *Sin*,
Must keep a strict, and constant Guard within.

Now all his Thoughts poor *David* doth imploy, ^{2 Sam. 11.}
The Party how to find, and to enjoy.

He makes Inquiry; and doth quickly find
One, that knew both the Woman, and his Mind.
To him he understood, The Beauteous Dame
Was *Ammiel's* Daughter: *Bath-sheba* her Name.
And that she was the brave *Uriah's* Wife,
(*Uriah* lov'd her far above his Life.)

It is known, the King, impatient of Delay:
Sends Messengers: The Woman they betray,
And bring her to him. She by him Conceive.
And then, returning home, the Palace leaves.

How Miserable is that Princes State,
Whom a Pack of *Parasites* do wait!
How sad is his Condition who must Trust
In him, as will *Pandar* to his lawless Lust!
And they, whom *David* sent the Dame to bring,
Unworthy of a Place about a King;
They would have run the hazard of his Blame,
To save their Master from so foul a Shame.

2 Sam.
II.

They would have represented to his View

That *odio'us Evil* in its *proper* Hew.

They would have try'd all Means; have *strove* ha

And, rather than have acted, *disobey'd*. (pray)

But ah! such faithful Courtie'rs are as rare,

As in the Streams *black* Swans; *white* Crows in A

No Help from his had *David*. They he fem

Were in so *bad* a Work, *too* diligent.

He spake the Word, they ran; their Errand te

Prevail, the Woman bring; *by her* he fell.

He fell, who had such *high* Attainments know

To whom such *special* Favours God had show

He who so late before the Ark did Dance,

Now could not stand against a Woman's Glan

Surpriz'd by a Temptation, down he fell;

Who the *Sweet Singer* was of *Israel*.

He, from the holy Path, aside did start;

Who, *once*, a Man was after God's own Hear

Ah! Who can hope, when such Men fall, to fl
Without an eminent Supporting Hand!

Life's a War. Temptations all assail :

2 Sam.
11.

and, without strong Resistance, will prevail.

*Not Kings, we see, can stand ; however good
they are, when once they yeild to Flesh and Blood.*

*After fair Bath-sheba had been at home
some long enough to know ; Her fruitful Womb
by which she was not apt to be beguil'd)
gave her Assurance, That she was with Child.*

With the private Notice thereof sent

to David ; publick Scandal to prevent.

is put poor David to his Shifts, to find

how he the Husband, and the World might blind.

C H A P. VIII.

URIAH, all this while, from home had been
Seeking, immortal Fame, by Arms to win
Him *David* straitway sent for home, that he
A Cloke to their *Adultery* might be :
Not minding that he needs must come too late
To cover a *Great Belly* of that date.

No sooner good *Uriah* did receive
The King's Command : but forthwith, taking leave
Of *Joab*, to the Court his Course he bent ;
And to his Sov'reign did himself present.
The King enquires : *Uriah* doth relate
Both *Joab's* Welfare, and the Armie's State.

When he had made an End, and Night came on
The King (who stood on Thorns to have him gone,

Dis

smist him; and advis'd him hast to make
own to his House: and there *Refreshment* take.

2 Sam.
11.

From the King's Prefence forth *Uriah* went:
and after him a *Royal Mess* was sent;
the King concluding he would home repair,
himself to solace with his (*faulty*) Fair.

No farther went *Uriah*, than the Gate
the King's House, where the King's Servants wait.
With whom, his old Acquaintance, he conferts;
and unto them the War's Success reports.
When Bed-time came, amongst the *Guards* he kept,
Soldier-like, in the *Guard-Chamber* slept.

Troubled was *David*, when he heard, by some,
next Morn, *Uriah* had not been at home.
Hiding, what he could, his Discontent,
for *Uriah*, to his Prefence, sent:
and with a *seeming Pity*, when he came,
in such Words as these, did *gently* blame.

C H A P. VIII.

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Seeking, immortal Fame, by Arms to win
Him *David* straitway sent for home, that he
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Not minding that he needs must come too late
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The King's Command : but forthwith, taking leave
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And to his *Sov'reign* did himself present.
The King enquires : *Uriah* doth relate
Both *Joab's* Welfare, and the Armie's State.

When he had made an End, and Night came on
The King (who stood on Thorns to have him gone,

smilt him; and advis'd him hast to make
own to his House: and there *Refreshment* take.

2 Sam.
11.

From the King's Presence forth *Uriah* went:
and after him a *Royal Mess* was sent;
the King concluding he would home repair,
himself to solace with his (*faulty*) Fair.

No farther went *Uriah*, than the Gate
the King's House, where the King's Servants wait.
With whom, his old Acquaintance, he conferts;
and unto them the War's Success reports.
When Bed-time came, amongst the *Guards* he kept,
and, Soldier-like, in the *Guard-Chamber* slept.

Troubled was *David*, when he heard, by some,
next Morn, *Uriah* had not been at home.
Hiding, what he could, his Discontent,
for *Uriah*, to his Presence, sent:
and with a *seeming Pity*, when he came,
in such Words as these, did *gently* blame.

2 Sam.
11.

- ‘ What was the Matter, *over-hardy* Knight,
‘ Thou went’st not down unto thy House last Night
‘ Came’st thou not from thy Journey, tyr’d & spent
‘ Why art thou of thy self so negligent?
‘ I thought thou might’st have born a *Bed* less hard
‘ Than are the *Matted Benches* of my Guard.
‘ Therefore I sent thee home, to take thy Rest
‘ Where I suppos’d, thou might’st enjoy it best
‘ Hereafter of thy self more Careful be.
‘ Thou know’st not what thy Loss would be to

With humble Thanks, *Uriah* thus reply’d.
Isra’el and *Judah*, with the *Ark* abide
In Tents: Lord *Joab* lyeth, with his Men,
In *open Fields* encamped. Shall I then
Go to my House to Eat, and Merry make,
And Pleasure in my Wife’s Embraces take!
The Lord forbid! As lives thy Soul, O King,
I will not be perswaded to this thing.
I shun whatever *Courage* would abate.
Soft Pleasures do the *Mind Effeminate*.

Thus spake *Uriah*. And let none suppose
drop't by *Chance*; Or from a Soldier rose:
heedfully observe it, with an Eye,
that can through Words, a *Providence* descry.
God was *Hedging David's Way* about;
that *David's Guilt* might, to his *Shame*, break out.

2 Sam.
11.

When *David* had *Uriah's* Answer weigh'd,
plainly saw, unless he were *betray'd*,
never should by him effect the End,
which he for Him, from the Camp, did send.
new Measures therefore *David* now doth take.
contrives how he *Uriah* Drunk may make.
looks on him with a more familiar Face;
and now receives him into *special* Grace.
seems he in *Uriah* to delight,
if he were the *only* Favourite.
feigned Kindness quickly grew so great,
that now *Uriah* must with *David* Eat.
makes him Drink, and Drink, and Drink again;
with rich Wines, he *overcharg'd* his Brain.

Thus

^{2 Sam.}
^{11.} Thus *Sin* to *Sin*, thus *Guilt* he adds to *Guilt*:
Nor stops, until *Uriah's* Blood be spilt.
Thus the *allow'd* Commission of a Sin,
Not seldom serves to let another in.

Uriah now is *Drunk*; the grapy Juyce
Hath of his Reason robb'd him of the Use.
With *sprightly* Wine *inflam'd*, who would have thought
But he, his Wife's *Embraces* would have sought
Yet neither *Drunk*, nor *Sober*, could he be
Perswaded, either House, or Wife, to see.
But with the *Guards* at Night again he lay;
And snoring slept his Drunkenness away.

The King now hopeless, and enrag'd to think
That neither by his *Flattery*, nor *Drink*
He could his End obtain; and harder grown
(For *Sin*, repeated, hardens any one)
Resolves, at last, a *desp'rate* Course to try:
And *Murder* joyn unto *Adultery*.
No way, to save his Honour, did remain,
He thought, unless he got *Uriah* slain.

since he found that, not by any Wile,
the *Resolv'd Uriah* could beguile:

2 Sam.
11.

saw that, if he suffer'd him to live,
never would the *Injury* forgive:

if not seek *Revenge*, at least proclame
Wrong he suff'ed; and his Prince's *Shame*.

reason'd *David*: on this Policy

King concludes, *Uriah* needs must dy.

that had suff'ed *too much* Wrong before,

that discov'ed be, must suffer *more*.

h's *guiltless* Blood must now be spilt,

make a Covering for *David's Guilt*.

Oh! The *Guilt* of *guiltless* Blood, thus shed,

fall, with *trebled* Weight, on *David's* Head.

What is Man, the best of Men, when left

to himself; of divine Grace bereft!

own

Joab, *David* doth a Letter write,

manding him that, in the hottest Fight,

should *Uriah*, in the Fore-front, place:

when he is Engag'd, Retire a-pace;

Leaving

^{2 Sam.}
^{11.} Leaving him *single* in the open Plain,
That, by the Enemy, he may be slain.

The Letter, which contain'd this dire Comm
Is sent to *Joab*, by *Uriah's* Hand.
Uriah, void of Jealousy and Fear,
The fatal Letter doth to *Joab* bear.
Of his own Death the *Instrument* He's made.
How easily is Innocence betray'd!
So went *Bellerophon*: whose milder Fate
Did unto him prove more propitiate.

When *Joab* understood his Master's Mind,
He to *Uriah* such a Place assign'd,
Where, by Experience, he before had found
Were *valiant* Men, that would defend their Gro
Then *falling back*, there left him to maintain
The Fight *alone*: So was *Uriah* slain.

Thus the brave *Hittite*, by a Plot fore-laid
Valia'ntly Fighting, *basely* was betray'd.

the first, perhaps, that ever lost his Life,
not Embracing his most beauteous Wife.

2 Sam.
11.

With speed *Uriah's* Death is signify'd
David, who his Joy could hardly hide.
Uriah's Widow, when she heard the News,
on the Mourning Weeds that Widows use,
Mourn'd the time. Then *David* took the Dame
to his House: And she his Wife became.
It was it long before she bore a Son.
God was sore displeas'd with what was done.

C H A P. IX.

NOW all was *whisb't* and still. *Uriah* Dead.
His Wife translated to King *David's* Bed.
more *by stealth*: but now with open Face,
joyful King doth *Bath-sheba* embrace.
ore his Courtie'rs doth her Court, and Kifs;
without Blushing, dares to call her *his*.

Uriah's

2 Sam.
11.

Uriah's Blood th' Adult'ry out did blot.

And how that *Blood* was shed, is now forgot.
Dissolv'd in *melting Pleasures David* lies,
And from th' *Avenger*, in himself, he flies.
Remorse was lost. *Hardness* was entred in,
Sensu'al Delights had drown'd the *Sense of Sin.*

But *David's God* (the God who *David* cho
And *David* lov'd) would not his *David* lose.
For though a *strong Temptation* had prevail'd,
And *David*, sway'd thereby, had grossly fail'd
Yet he, who Hearts doth search, and Reins doth
Saw yet in *David* a *Sincerity.*

2 Sam.
12.

His Prophet therefore God did send, to rouze
The *Stupid King*, from his *Lethargick Drowse*

O boundless Goodness! O unmeasur'd Love
Which did the *Bowels* of the *Father* move
Towards his *Erring Child*. He condescends:
And the *first Motion* makes, for being Friends
Th' *Offended* uses Means, to raise a Sense
In the *Offender*, of his foul Offence:

at, on *Repentance*, he may *Mercy* show;
 and *Reconciliation* thence may flow.

2 Sam.
 12.

Th' inspired Prophet, thus to *David* sent;
 by a *harmless* Wile, him Circumvent:
 having in a *Parable* him caught,
 the King to be his own *Condemner* brought.

Two Men, said he, did in one City dwell:
 the very *Poor*; th' other in *Wealth* did swell.
 the *Rich*, of Flocks and Herds, had countless Store.
 the *Poor* Man had, in all the World, no more
 but one small *Ew-Lamb*; which he bought, & fed;
 and choicely, with his Children, nourished.
 of his own Cup it drank: and for its Meat,
 he grudg'd it not the same himself did Eat.
 he let it in his *Bosom* ly at Night:

or, as a Daughter, 'twas his chief Delight.
 Now when a *Stranger* to the Rich Man came
 to Feast; the *Rich Man* was so void of Shame:
 that, sparing all his own, he took and drest
 the *Poor Man's Lamb*, to Entertain his Guest.

With

2 Sam.
12.

With strict *Attention* did King *David* hear
The Prophet out. Then made it soon appear,
How *quick* his Sense was of the *Poor Man's* Wrong
And what did to th' oppressing *Rich* belong.
Against the Man his *hot Displeasure* brake,
And to the Prophet, *Nathan*, thus he spake.

‘ As lives the Lord, Let him be ne’er so high
‘ The Man, that this hath done, *shall surely die*
‘ Nay, Death shall not suffice: but furthermore
‘ He *four times* over shall the *Lamb* restore:
‘ Because that, having *Plenty* of his own,
‘ He did this thing, and hath *no Pity* shown.
So spake the King. But little thought, alas!
That he this Sentence *on himself* did pass.

How *partial* is the Nature of Mankind!
Quick-sighted at another’s Fault: but *blind*
Unto our Own! *Our selves* how apt to spare.
But unto *Others* how *Severe* we are!
He that could, with an over-hasty Breath,
For a *less* Fault, pronounce another’s Death:

ould just before abuse his Neighbour's Wife;
d Him, without Remorse, deprive of Life.

2 Sam.
12.

No sooner did the heavy Sentence drop
om *David's* Lips; but *Nathan* in did chop
on him: and No longer hide I can,
d he, my Message from thee; *Thou'rt the Man.*

How great was, at that Word, the King's Surprise;
ht have been seen in his *dejected* Eyes.

conscious Blood into his Face did *Flush*,
brought upon his Cheeks a *scarlet* Blush:
ich lasted not, but in a while did fail;
was succeeded by a *faint* Pale.

f the guiltless *Blood* he lately spilt,
thither flow'd, to Evidence his *Guilt*.

then Retiring, back again had fled,
hew the stained Ground, where it was shed.
reat Disorder in his Face appear'd;

well from what he *felt*, as' what he *fear'd*.

Hands, like one that hath the *Palsy*, shook:
trembling Knees against each other strook.

M

Silent

2 Sam.
12.

Silent he fate; his Spirit almost gone :

While the inspired *Prophet* thus went on.

- ‘ Thus saith the Lord, the God of *Israel*
‘ (who in most *awful Majesty* doth dwell)
‘ I over *Isra’el* Thee appointed King;
‘ And out of all thy Troubles did thee bring.
‘ Out of the Hand of *Saul* I did thee save:
‘ And unto Thee thy *Master’s* House I gave.
‘ Into thine Arms thy *Master’s* Wives I cast:
‘ And to thee *Isra’el* made, and *Judah*, fast.
‘ And if all this had been too small a Store,
‘ I would have added such and such things more
‘ Why then didst thou the Lord’s Command despise
‘ To do the thing that’s *Evil* in his Eyes ?
‘ *Uriah* Thou, with *Ammon’s* Sword, hast slain
‘ And with his Wife, as with thine own, hast slain
‘ Now therefore, never shall thy *House* be from
‘ From *Sword*: because thou hast despised me
‘ (Who, from the Sheepcote, Set thee on the Throne
‘ And took *Uriah’s* Wife to be thine own.

Thus saith the Lord, Behold, I'll Evil raise,
Out of thy House, against thee, divers ways.
Thy *Wives*, before thine Eyes, I'll from thee take;
And let thy Neighbour *Strumpets* of them make.
He with thy *Wives*, in open View, shall ly:
Regardless who looks on, or who stands by.
Thou *secretly* hast wrought, and in the *dark*:
But I will on thee set a *publick* Mark.
For I will cause this *Justice* to be done
Before all *Isra'el*, and before the Sun.

2 Sam.
12.

This said, the Prophet stopt. The wounded King
Who of his Guilt now felt the *piercing* Sting)
Offence had none to make: No Art did use,
No foul Offence to *pallia'te*, or *excuse*.
Not fetching, from his very *inmost* Part,
A *soleful* Groan, which seem'd to rend his Heart;
His *quive'ring* Lips let fall this mournful Word,
I sinned have against the Lord.
The Sentence clos'd; A *Sigh* that came
Warmly out, it might his Lips *inflamm*:

2 Sam.
12.

But that his *melting* Eyes a plenteo'us *Show'r*
Of *Tears*, upon his *Cheeks* and *Beard* did pour.

Short the *Confession* was. Yet that it flow'd
From a *true* Penitent, the *Accent* show'd.

It reach't the Prophet's Heart, and gain'd Belief
Of the *Sincerity* of *David's* Grief.

For God *Repentance*, if it be *sincere*;

Accepts, though *short*, in Words, it doth appear.

Such *David's* was: yet was it not in vain.

The gladdened Prophet alters now his Strain;

And, with an *Healing* Word, doth thus begin:

' *The Lord hath also put away thy Sin*;

' *Thou shalt not dy.* O, who would be so base,

To Sin against such undeserved Grace!

' Howbeit (Thus the Prophet did proceed)

' Because thou great Occasion, by this Deed,

' Hast given wicked Men, the Lord to scorn;

' The Bastard-Child, which unto thee is born,

' Shall surely dy. His Word was veresy'd:

For, on the seventh Day, the *Infant* dy'd.

The *Prophet* now, his *Message* fully done,
Had left the *King*; and to his *House* was gone.
At what he, from the *Lord*, had to him said,
David's *Heart* a deep *Impression* made.
His *Conscience*, which before did *slumb'ring* ly,
Now, throughly wake'ned, in his *Face* did fly,
And Charg'd him home. He felt the *Wounds* within,
Which, on his *bleeding Heart*, were made by *Sin*.

2 Sam.
12.

Ah! Who his *grinding Sorrows* can Express!
Speak the *Hundredth Part* of his Distress!
His *galling Grief*, his *pity-moving Moans*,
His *deep-fetch't Sighs*, and his *Heart-rending Groans*!
Himself, we find, could not deliver these,
Without the help of great *Hyperboles*.

How earnest was he! With what *Fervency*,
To his *God*, did He for *Pardon* cry!
Have *Mercy on me*, O my *God*, he cry'd:
And from my *Sins* thy *Face*, not from me, hide.
Purge me with *Hyssop*; Cleanse me from my *Sin*:
And wash me throughly, from all *Guilt*, within.

2 Sam. 12. ' Create in me a *Clean* Heart, and *Renew*
 ' Within me, Lord, a Spirit *Right* and *True*.
 ' O from thy Presence cast me not away :
 ' Nor take thy Spirit from me, Lord, I pray.
 ' With thy free Spirit me Uphold. Restore
 ' The Joy of thy Salvation, as before.

Such *moving* Supplications Day and Night,
 Did He pour forth; which I nor can recite,
 Nor need: for he hath couch't them in such *Ver*
 As my *short-winded* Muse cannot Rehearfe.
 Suffice it therefore, that the Reader know,
 He did *not* Pray in *vain*: but Prayed so,
 That He not only *Pardon* did obtain;
 But his lost Favour did with God regain.
 God grant, whoever sins like him, may be
 As true a *contrite* Penitent, as He.

The End of the THIRD BOOK.

DAVIDE

DAVIDEIS.

BOOK IV.

CHAPTER I.

[Ho' the sharp sentence, which, in too great hast, ^{2 Sam.}

Th' unwitting King upon himself had plac'd, ^{13.}

is mitigated, by the Clemency

David's God; that *David* might not Dy:

did the Prophet, in God's Name, declare,

that he would *Evil* against him *prepare*;

which should in his *own Family* arise,

and on him bring the sorest Exercise.

M 4

This

2 Sam.
13.

This was the Doom, though more at large express'd
By which poor *David* was to be distress'd.
Which (though *protracted*, yet) would *certain* be
For *who can Alter a Divine Decree?*
Judgments denounc'd may *linger* : But, at length
They fall *more* heavy, and with *greater* strength
Sometimes the *Stroke* doth at a *Distance* stand :
Yet that which brings it on is near at hand.
So, in this Case, some Years did Intervene,
Betwixt the *Sentence*, and the Tragick Scene.
Yet that which led thereto did *closely* Lurk ;
And, in short time, did thus bring on the Wo

Of all the many Sons which *David* had,
Amnon the Eldest was ; a *topping* Lad :
Who of the Jezreelite, *Abinoam*,
Was born, soon after she to *Hebron* came.
A Daughter also *David* had, whose Name
Was *Tamar* ; a most beautiful young Dame.
Sister she was to *Absalom* the Fair,
David's Third Son ; so noted for his Hair.

On this Half-Sister-Princes, *Amnon* cast
wanton Eye. Affection grew so fast
on him, that, not daring to discover,
Shame, or Fear, what an *unlawful* Lover
he was; He *Pin'd* away, his *Cheeks* grew *pale*,
his *Flesh* did *wast*, His *Strength* began to *fail*.
The *fiery Passion*, in his Bosom pent,
Inward burn; for want of *Outward* vent.

A Friend he had, who unto him was near
Kin; a Friend peculiarly dear:
His Father's Brother's Son, nam'd *Jonadab*,
sicklighted, and too wise to be a *Blab*.

He, well observing how, from Day to Day,
his Princely Kinsman *Pin'd*, and fell away:
which since he no outward Cause could find,
concluded something did afflict his Mind.
Therefore, a proper Season having got,
put the Question close: Asking him, what
was, that on his Nature did prevail,
as to make his *Countenance* look *pale*,

And

2 Sam.
13.

2 Sam. And *Flesh decay*. Begging him not to hide
13. Ought from his Friend; in whom he might confide

Prince *Amnon*, by his Friend thus closely prest,
His Love, though not without a *Blush*, confess.
The Princess *Tamar* 'tis, said he, I Love.
Oh, that my Love should so *Eccentrick* move!
I love my own *Half-Sister*, who did Spring
From the same Root, as I my self; the King,
I love, Ah me! I love: Yet love in vain;
Hopeless the Object of my Love to gain.
This is my Case. The Heat of my Desire
Consumes my Nature: sets me all on Fire.

When *Jonadab* (than whom no Man alive
Knew better how a *mischief* to contrive)
Had heard the Case; He soon discov'ed what
Would *Amnon* please: And thus he laid the Plot

Go, Take thy Bed, said he, and (for a Time)
Put on thy Night-Cap. Feign that thou art Sick

When thy Father comes to see thee, say
I leave, I pray, my Sister *Tamar* may
Come to me; and before me dress some Meat:
That, seeing it done, I at her Hand may Eat.

2 Sam.
13.

He went no further. For, he knew, the Prince
Was quick enough, to understand his Sense.
If he could but draw the Long'd for Dame
Within his reach, knew how to Quench his Flame.

Amnon, the Council liking, forthwith took
Bed upon it; and, with *puling* Look,
Assembled Sickness. Quickly the Report
Of *Amnon's* Illness reach'd the royal Court.

The King, in hast, to *Amnon* doth repair,
His Son to visit, and the Kingdom's Heir.
He gave fair room for *Amnon* to request,
That might Eat something by his Sister dress'd.
The King consents: and doth his Mind declare,
That *Tamar* should to *Amnon's* House repair;

And

2 Sam.
13.

And there, by his direction, dress such meat
For him, as he, *poor Heart!* could like to eat.

The Princess *Tamar* did no sooner hear
Her Father's Message, but, with filial Fear,
And nimble steps, she to her Brother hies,
Who, on his Bed, dissembling Sickness, lies.
She askt him How he did: And did bemoan
His danger. But *more justly might her own.*
The courteous *Mien*, fresh *Beauty* of the Dame
Did more and more the *Lecher's* Lust inflame
She ask't him what, He'd please to have her make
For him to Eat: He pitch'd upon a *Cake*.
She to the work addrest her self with hast;
Temp'red the *Flour*, and wrought it into *Past*
Her Milk-white Hands, and slender Fingers fra
The pliant *Past*, till it a *Cake* became.
Then having Bake'd it also at his Fire
(Each Turn and Motion hight'ning his desire
She brought it to him. But he put it by.
His Room was overfill'd with Company.

2 Sam.
13.

order given that it Clear'd should be,
none left in it, but Himself and she:
then requested, that she would draw near,
bring the *Mess.* She did so, without Fear.
when, alas! within his Reach she came,
laid *fast hold* upon the lovely Dame:
on taking her about the Neck, he Kist her;
bluntly said, Come, *Ly with me*, my Sister.

surpriz'd, the Damsel *trembled*; and would fain
from him got: She strove, but strove in *vain*;
Held her fast. She then began to plead;
for her *Honour*, thus did Intercede.

Oh; *Force me not*, my Brother! I intreat
thee to consider, that the Sin is great.
eat, in it self: *Greater*, in thee to me;
nearly Link't by *Consanguinity*.

bear, I pray, Forbear: Thy Lust restrain.
y Honour, Mine, our Father's, do not stain
th such an Infamy. Thou know'st full well,
such thing may be born in *Israel*.

Should'st

- 2 Sam. 13. ‘ Should’st thou *Defile* me: Where could I ab
 ‘ Where find an Hole? my *shamed* Head to h
 ‘ Thou too, who *Heir* art to our Father’s Cro
 ‘ Born to the Kingdom, Bred in High Ren
 ‘ Thy Father’s *Darling*, and the Peoples Joy
 ‘ What will become of thee, if thou Destroy
 ‘ Their Hopes, by perpetrating such a Crim
 ‘ As this? Well might thou thenceforth Curse the
 ‘ Thou e’er saw’st *Tamar*: For Thou then (ah
 ‘ But as a *Fool in Israel* would’st be.
 ‘ Regard thine Honour, *Mine*, our Family:
 ‘ And rob me not of my Virginity.
 ‘ *Force me not*, Brother, *Force me not*: But rat
 ‘ Ask me in Marriage of our Royal Father.
 ‘ He to bestow me on thee will not fail.
 ‘ O let my *Pray’rs* and *Tears* with thee prevail!

This said, she, with her *Tears*, bedew’d his
 But He, whom Lust had quite bereft of Grace
 Her most *importune* Prayers would not hear:
 But to her Supplications stopt his Ear:

, being stronger, did by Force *deflow'r*
Princely Dame; resisting, to her Pow'r.

2 Sam.
13.

great is the Diff'rence betwixt *lawful Love*,
lawless Lust. That doth it self approve,
its Effects, to be indeed *Divine*;
having a Celestial Origine.

Constant is; and by Injoyment grows
Stronger: which its *Innate* Vertue shows.

at *t'other*, (which is *miscall'd* Love, and must
rightly nam'd, be called *filthy Lust*)

in sensual Concupiscence doth flow:
which shews its Parentage is *from below*.

likes to take a *Tast* of ev'ry one.
with *All*: but Constant be to none.

this, how Hot soever it doth burn:
Injoyment, can to *Hatred* turn.

ch Love was *Amnon's*: whose *uncurb'd* Desire,
his Sister, set him all on Fire.

He

2 Sam. 13. He Burn'd, He Flam'd, Consum'd, & needs would

Unless he might with his own Sister Ly.

Yet, when he once his *brutish* End had gain'd

And, by a Rape, his Sister's Honour stain'd:

He, in a moment, chang'd his amo'rous Theam,

And flew as high in th' opposite Extream.

He, who but now was *over Hot* and Bold,

Is now become to Her *exceeding Cold*.

He, that in nothing else could take Delight,

But her fair Face; Now *loaths* and *shuns* the Sight

She, who *before* his Heart did Captivate;

Is *now* become the Object of his Hate.

He *Hates* her now. He *Hates* her now much more

With perfect Hatred, than he *Lov'd* before.

He *Hates* her so, He can't her Presence bear:

But ev'ry Hour she stays He thinks a Year.

That nothing might, to shew his Hate, be lack'd

He rudely bids Her, Up; Away, be Packing

This *surly* Carriage added to the Grief

She had before, Nor knew she where Relief

Opp

preſt, to find. She told him, On her part, 2 Sam.
13.
there was no Cauſe He thus ſhould break her Heart.
wiſh'd him to weigh, whether this would not bring
greater Diſpleaſure on him from the King.

He the deaf Ear, to all ſhe ſaid, did turn;
and Churliſhly did at her Counſel ſpurn.
then Call'd his Man, and ſternly Bid him Put
that Woman out: and ſaſt the Door to ſhut.
ſhe did ſo. She, poor Princeſs, did Lament
the double Injury. Forthwith ſhe Rent
her royal Robe (of divers Colours made,
in which Kings Virgin-Daughters were Array'd)
the lovely Treſſes of her well-ſet Hair,
with trembling Fingers, through deep Sorrow, tare,
in putting Aſhes on her Head, ſhe laid
her Hand thereon, and mournful Accents made;
then to her Brother Abſalom's ſhe went,
where ſhe, more freely, might her Caſe lament.

As ſoon as Abſalom the raviſh'd Dame
ſaw her (well knowing alſo whence ſhe came)

N

He

^{2 Sam.}
^{13.} He strait suspecting what had her befell;
Beg'd of her, that she would not stick to tell
Him, how 'twas with her: Whether *Amnon* had
Abus'd her; and from thence she was so sad.
She *blushing*, rather to Acknowledge, chose
Her *Wrong* by *Looks*; than *Shame* by *Words* disclose
He understood Her. And Considering
How Dear Prince *Amnon* was unto the King;
How High, in Favour of the Court and Town,
He stood, as *Heir* apparent to the Crown:
Concluded in himself, 'twould be but vain
To Hope for *Justice*, If she should Complain.
Therefore he wish't his Sister to conceal
The wrong sustained, until He could deal
With *Amnon* for it. She submits to wait;
And liv'd with him: but much disconsolate.

Absalom's Guess was right, that 'twould be vain
For *Tamar*, of Prince *Amnon* to Complain
Unto the King: for, though he very wroth
Is said to be; yet was he no less loth

When to his Ear this foul Transgression came)
lay on *Amnon* Punishment or Shame.

2 Sam.
13.

But *Absalom* did bear the thing in mind;
d, in due time to be Reveng'd, design'd.
in his Heart, He could not choose but Hate
e Man, that durst his Sister Violate,
w Near, or High soever. Such a Stain
l hardly be got out, till he is Slain
t gave it. Therefore *Absalom* is set
on to Kill, when he fit time can get.

C H A P. II.

W I C E had the restless, and unwearied Sun
His yearly Course, throughout the *Zodiak*: un
Absalom a season fit could find,
execute the Vengeance he design'd
Amnon, for the Wickedness he wrought,
Dishonour he on *Tamar* brought.

N 2

But

^{a Sam.} But now a fit Occasion did present,
^{33.} And he, to take it too, was fully bent.

A great *Sheep-Shearing*, at his Country Seat,
Had *Abfalom*; at which a Noble *Treat*
He mean't to make; and thither, to Invite
The King and Court; then *Amnon* there to Smite

To Court he hastens, and Acquaints the King
In humble Manner, with his *Sheep-Shearing*,
Intreats that He, at the set Time and Place,
His Feast would, with his Royal Prefence, grace

The King, Considering how much the Char
If he went, his *Retinue* would Enlarge:
(Though for no other Cause he did refuse
To go) from going, did himself Excuse.

It sort'd well; and likely would be best,
Without the King; so *Amnon* were his Guest.
Amnon, for whom the Entertainment's made
Amnon, whom to destroy, the *Train* is laid.

et crafty *Absalom*, the more to hide
his bloody Purpose, still himself apply'd,
with greater Earnestness, to gain the King
to Come; and with him *all* his Sons to bring:
at all in vain. The King will not be won,
by his Intreaties, to Oppress his Son.

that, that he might his good Acceptance show,
his *Blessing* He upon him did bestow.

By this imbold'ned, *Absalom* him prest,
let his Brother *Amnon* be his Guest.

Why *Amnon*? ask'd the King. Because, said he,
Amnon, in dignity, is next to thee.

The gentle King, from all Suspicion free,
was overborn by Importunity,

held that, not *Amnon* only, but the rest
of the King's Sons should go, at his request.

Now *Absalom*, his Point thus gain'd, doth part
from Court; and hasts, with unrelenting Heart,
to his Country Seat, that he might there,
what needful was to his Design, prepare.

2 Sam.
13.

Then, of his Servants, calling to him such,
As, in his cause, he knew, would never grutch
Their Lives to lose: He thus the Matter breaks;
And, in such Terms as these, his Purpose speaks.

‘ Mark well, said he, when *Amnon*, at the Fea
‘ Shall have drunk high, and overcharg’d his Brea
‘ With gene’rous Wine: when I say, *Amnon* smit
‘ Fall on, strike home, Fear not, but kill him quic
‘ Remember It is I, that give Command:
‘ Be valiant then, and to your Weapons stand.

Accordingly, when the King’s Sons were come
And all the Guests, to Feast with *Abalom*;
He, that he *Amnon* might the more beguile
(His Hatred hiding with a feigned Smile)
Embrac’d, Caress’d him, and for special grace,
In the chief Seat Him, as chief Guest, did place.
Ply’d him with sprightly Wines, till he perceiv’d
The Wine had him of Sense well nigh bereav’d.
Then starting up, He gave the fatal Word,
Smite Amnon. Forthwith each *Assassin*’s Sword

Was sheathed in him: Ev'ry One let fly
at Amnon, until Amnon dead did ly.

2 Sam.
13.

But Oh! The Hurly-Burly that it made
among the Guests! Each held himself betray'd.
The Royal Stock were most of all perplex't,
of whom each fear'd his Turn would be the next.
Which to prevent, all to their Mules did hie;
and back to Court, Fear adding Wings, did fly.

But tho', with utmost Speed, they cut their way,
yet long-tongu'd Fame made greater hast than they.
The babling Dame before them got to Court,
and of the sad Disaster made Report.
And, as her Nature is to magnify
her ill News she bears (not sticking at a Ly)
she, to Exaggerate the Crime, did feign,
that Absalom All the King's Sons had slain:
that not one of them alive was left;
that of his Sons the King was quite bereft.

2 Sam.
13.

Such *doleful* News sufficient was to shake
The strongest Mind, and make the Heart to ake
The King, with Garments rent, upon the Ground
Himself did cast: His Sorrows did abound.
And all his Servants, with their Garments rent
The Loss of so much Royal Blood lament.

This *Jonadab* observing (he who gave
The Counsel, which brought *Amnon* to his Grave)
He begg'd the King not to believe that *all*
His Sons were slain: *Amnon alone* did fall.
That this, which he related, was most true,
He could Assure him. For, said he, I knew,
Long since, that *Abſa'lom*, from the very Hour
Wherein his Brother *Amnon* did deflow'r
His Sister *Tamar*, had his Death design'd:
And only waited until he could find
A Season for't, which since he now did gain
He caus'd his Brother *Amnon* to be slain,
Thereby to Sacrifice, to *Tamar's* Honour,
Him, that had brought so great *Reproach* upon him

By that time *Jonadab* his Tale had told
 Which scarce as yet could gain Belief) Behold
 The King's Sons enter'd, in a frightful Maze,
 And on the King, as he on them, did gaze:
 He and They into loud Weeping break;
 And, in sad Accents, mutua'l Sorrows speak.

2 Sam.
 13.

Mean while young *Absalom*, to save his Head
 From Stroke of Justice, for Protection fled
 To his Grandfather's, King *Talmai's* Court:
 Where he might hope for Safety, and Support.
 David long did *Amnon's* Death bewail.
 Which yet could not *Uriah's* countervail.

This is the *Second* Instance may be giv'en,
 The fulfilling that Decree of Heav'en,
 God denounc'd to *David*; when he says,
 Of thine own House I will Evil raise
 Against thee. His Son *Amnon* did deflow'r
 His Daughter *Tamar*, put into his Pow'r
 Him: than which, ah, what more foul Dishonour,
 Or, harmless Princess, could have come upon her!

What

2 Sam. 13. What Home-bred Mischief on himself could fall
Which could a worthy Mind more deeply gall

Let that go for the *First*. But two Years after
His Son and Heir had thus *defile'd* his Daughter
Another Son was stirr'd up, to repay
That *Injury*; And He doth *Amnon* slay.
Had David *Justice* upon *Amnon* done,
He might have *mended*, and not *lost* his Son.
This was a *Cutting* Evil, and must need
Strike deep; and cause a Father's Heart to bleed
This was the *second* Stoke, by which that Wo
Fulfilled was: David, *beware the Third*.

C H A P. III.

NOW had Prince *Absalom* three Winters spent ^{2 Sam.}
13.

At *Geshur*, whither he for *Safety* went.

When *David*, having for his *Amnon* shed

any a Tear: now, seeing he was dead,

mitts his Grief. And soon Paternal Love,

place resum'g, in his Breast doth move

Absalom; Right Heir to *Israel's* Throne,

W *Amnon's* dead, and *Chileab* also gone.

His hank'ring Mind *Joab's* observing Eye

in the King, his Uncle, soon espy.

, being glad to find it, beat his Brain,

fetch Prince *Absalom* to Court again:

doubting but, if he could that obtain,

Royal Favour he would soon regain.

to effect, a wily Train he laid

King to circumvent: who, thus betray'd,

Unwittingly

2 Sam.
14.

Unwittingly should Pardon *Absalom*;

And that once done, should then recall him home

To *Tekoah* he sent, where then did dwell
A Woman, who in Wisdom did excell.
Her, to him brought, he did Instruct to Dress
Her self in Mourning Weeds. Then get Access
To the King's Presence; And, that done, to see
She Mourned for a Son of hers, was slain
By his own Brother: Whom the Family
Rose up against; Condemning him to dy.
Then, to beseech the King her Son to save
From being buried in his Brother's Grave.

Instructed thus, She to the Court did go,
And, as a Suppliant, her self did throw
At the King's Feet. And being askt the Cause
She *Archly* told it: and it took such place
In the Unthinking King, that he thus spake,
Go home; and I due Care for thee will take.
She, glad of this, did yet her Sute renew
Once and again; until the King she drew

to say, *Thy Son for this sha'n't lose an Hair.*

2 Sam.
14.

and this he did not only say, but swear.

When thus the *nily* Dame the King had wrought
to grant, unwittingly, the thing she sought,
e, Leave obtain'd, the Matter home did bring;
and fairly did apply it to the King.

told him, that he was that *Avenger*, whom
he fear'd, on the behalf of *Abfalom*.

esought him to Consider that, unless
he did Him *Pardon*, and his People bless
with their beloved *Abfalom*: Nor He
from Danger could, nor They from Fear be free.
he begg'd that He, as *Father*, and as *King*
would pardon *Abfalom*; and home would bring
his *Banished*: and him again restore
into the Grace, in which he stood before.

The King, himself now finding over-reach't
As once before, when *Nathan* to him preach't
That *saving* *Sermon*; with this odds, that He
was *Guilty* then: but now from Guilt was free)

Injoyn'd

2 Sam, Injoyn'd the Woman, that she should not hide
 14. From him the thing he ask't: but should confide
 In him, that he would no Advantage take
 Against her. She consenting, Thus he spake,
Is not the Hand of Joab in this thing?
 She own'd, It was. Then Joab hither bring,
 Said he. And unto Joab (being come)
 He said in short, *Go fetch the young Man home.*

Joab, (Obeysance made unto the King,
 And Thanks return'd, for thus far Favouring
 His humble Suit) Unto King Talma's Court
 At Gesbur hastes; the good News to report.
 Which, once deliver'd, made all Heads employ
 Their Wits, to set forth their *unbounded* Joy
 On Absalom's Account. Who, ever since
 He came to Gesbur, like a Noble Prince
 Himself behaved had; so Brave, so Fair,
 So Curteous, Genteel and Debonair,
 And so Obliging, that whoever could
 Gain his Acquaintance (which all might, that wo

and themselves highly honoured, and strove
 themselves to render worthy of his Love.
 As him to them so feelingly endears,
 They could not think of Parting, without Tears.
 So he must: Affection, Friendship, all
 Left vail, and yeild to a paternal Call;
 Though Interest should therein have no Share;
 Which yet in this Case no small Weight did bear.

2 Sam.
 14.

With Joab therefore Absalom Returns

In Geshur to Jerusalem, and burns
 In thirsty Hopes, and Expectation great,
 Highest Favour from the Royal Seat.

Oh! the Disappointment it must bring
 His aspiring Mind, when, from the King
 Returning, let him understand,
 As to him the King's express Command;
 That he should strait to his own House resort,
 Not attempt to shew himself at Court.
 Well the King consider'd, 'twas not meet,
 Though his Love was great, his Son should see't.

Nor

2 Sam. 14. Nor that he him to special Grace should take,
Who had so lately made his Heart to ake.

Though therefore, Circumvented by a Wile
He had recall'd him from his Self-Exile;
And sav'd his Life from Danger of the Law:
He held it best to keep him still in aw.
Hoping, in time, he to a better Sence
Might thereby bring him of his great Offence

When two full Years Prince *Absalom* had lay
Under *Confinement*; not without Disdain,
That he had not been suffer'd, in that space,
To Kiss the King's Hand, or to see his Face:
Impatient of Restraint, He now did send
For *Joab* (both his Kinsman and his Friend)
To try if he, howe'er he sped, would bring
Him to the long'd-for Presence of the King

But truly *Joab* (who, perhaps, might find
How to his Son the King did stand inclin'd)

ould nor at *first*, nor *second* Summons, come
 him; which so provok't Prince *Abalom*:
 at he resolv'd, since *fair* Means would not do;
 d try what *Fouler* would induce him to.
 bid his Servants, therefore, set on Fire
 Field of *Joab's*. *Joab*, to enquire
 e Cause of this *Abuse*, did quickly come:
 d this *blunt* Answer had from *Abalom*.

2 Sam.
14.

Thou know'st I for thee sent, once and again;
 thou from coming to me did'st refrain.
 other means bei'ng left, I this did take,
 see if *Inte'rest* would thee *kinder* make.
 w therefore let me to the King thee send,
 beg, He to my Life will put an End,
 ther than under this Restraint me keep,
 nfin'd so, that abroad I may not peep.
 erefore didst thou me (too unhappy *Wretch*)
 m Grandfire *Talmai's* Court, in *Geshur*, fetch;
 der pretence, that I should be restor'd
 to the Favour of my Royal Lord?

O

— Better

2 Sam.
14.

Better it were, I thither might go back
 (where I nor *Liberty*, nor *Love* did lack)
 Than here remain; where I no Comfort have,
 But what arises from an *hoped* Grave.
 Therefore beseech the King me once to grace,
 With the fair Aspect of his Royal Face.
 If Live I may not in his gracious Eye;
 Let me not Live at all: *I choose to dy.*

Though *Joab* gladly would himself excuse
 From going on this Errand. Yet refuse
 He knew not how. The Prince hard presses for
 And he, o'ercome, doth trudge away to Court.
 Come thither, He a *proper Season* waits;
 And then so *aptly* to the King relates
 The Case, and State of his beloved Son,
 That ground he on the King's Affection won.
Affection help'd his *Judgment* to betray;
 And to the Prince's suit prepares the way:
 For now *Affection* made his *Judgment* doubt,
 If he against his Son should still hold out.

he might endanger, e'er he was aware,
the driving of his Son into *Despair*.
Therefore he orde'ed *Joab* strait to bring
Salom to his presence: th' only thing
both desir'd. *Joab*, o'erjoy'd, doth hast
to *Absalom*: and brings him back as fast.
to the King doth all *submission* show;
and at his Royal Feet himself doth throw.
The King doth raise his Son up from the ground,
and that such *Humbleness* in him was found.
Then, in his Arms him taking, doth him *kiss*:
which *Emblem* of full *Reconcilement* is.

2 Sam.
14.

C H A P. IV.

The *Intemp'rance* of th' *ambitious* Mind!
To no due Bounds, or Medium confin'd!
How doth it *swell*! How doth it *soar* on high!
if it fain would Climb above the Skie.

2 Sam.
15.

2 Sam.
15.

This *topping* Temper soon it self did show
In *Absalom*, and wrought his Overthrow.
He that, at home confin'd, but t'other day,
Greatly deprest in mind, obscurely lay,
O'erwhelm'd almost with Grief, and cold Despair
No sooner felt the *warmth* of Courtly Air :
But, as the *Winter-Fly*, whom Heat doth bring
To sense, begins to *Buz*, and take the Wing.
So He, the Royal Favour feeling, strait
Took Wing, and soar'd above his proper state.

Unsteady Nature, varying like the Wind,
Hurries to each *Extream*, th' *unstable* Mind.
At Sea *becalm'd*, we wish some *brisk*er Gales
Would on us rise; and fill our *limber* Sails.
We have our Wish: and strait our *Skiff* is tost
So high, we are in danger to be lost.
At Land, we would be *foremost*; make a stir:
And Ride at *Neck-and-all*, with *Whip* and *Spur*.
We would *be*, would *have* All: are loath to sit
For what's our Right, till have't of right we may.

This is the Nature of *ambitious* Man,
 aring as *fast*, as *high* too, as he can.
 hereas, would we but Bridle our Desire,
 ll the due time, we might rise safely higher.

2 Sm.
 15.

This was the Ruin of this goodly Prince,
 t loose too soon; his lofty Mind, e'er since,
 m'd nothing *lower* than the *highest* Seat;
 ough nothing, for himself, too *Good*, too *Great*.
 e on the Crown look't with a longing Eye:
 or spake, nor dream't of ought but *Monarchy*.
 nd whenso'er he saw the Royal *Throne*,
 ould scarce forbear to call that Seat *his own*.
 s own it might have been, would he have staid,
 ntil his Father's Head was fairly laid.
 t his *Impatience* thought each Day a Year,
 ch Year an Age, until the Throne was clear.
 or would he stay, till *Providence* should make
 ay for him to't: He his one way would take.
 Accordingly, He did assume such State,
 s did transcend the highest Subject's rate.

^{2 Sam.}
^{35.} *Horses* he did, and *Chariots* too, provide;
And *Fifty Men*, in whom he could confide,
To Run before him: which might taken be,
Either for *State*, or for *Security*.
High State it shew'd, if these his *Lacquies* were
A *strong Defence*, if he did Them prepare
For his *Life-Guard*. On which so'er Account
It was; it did a Subject's State surmount.

This Pomp, however, made the People gaze
And in the Mob did Admiration raise.
For *Vulgar Eyes* with *Gawdy* shews are caught;
And from *Admiring*, to *submission* brought.
But He had other ways, to Circumvent
The better fort: and thus to work he went.

Early each Morn, He to the Court would go
And there, beside the Gate, would stand, that
Whatever *Suitor* to the King did come,
For Judgment, must pass by Prince *Abalom*.
Then would he call him to him; Ask his Name
And from what City, or what Place, he came.

at known, He seem'd concern'd the Matter might ^{2 Sam.}
 well: and say, *Take Care thy Cause be right.*
 t then, with down-cast Look, and shaking Head,
 ded, *The King hath no Man*, in his stead,
 er: *puted thee to bear*: so that, though right
 y Cause should be, Thou suffer may'st by might.
 t en, in a kind of discontented Tone
 s if he did the Peoples Case bemoan) *aid ye*
 d *mutter* something; then would make a stop:
 d, in a softer Tone, this *Wish* would drop;
 ould I were made *Chief-Justice* in the Land!
 at eve'ry Man, who hath a Cause in hand,
 ight come to me; and I would do him Right,
 w Poor so'er: None should oppress by Might.
 ould I were on the Bench, that I, from thence,
 ight equal Justice unto all dispence!
 When thus himself he thus far had extoll'd;
 d thereby the poor *Suitor* had *Cajoll'd*
 Bow unto him, and Obeysance make:
 his Arms he would this *Clients* take,

2 Sam. Hug and Embrace him; nor would him dismiss,
 15. Till he had Charm'd him with a treache'rous Ki
 Thus did the Son, by such alluring Arts,
 Bereave the Father of his Peoples Hearts;
 And to himself them draw: whilst the good King
 Of all things, least suspected such a thing.

By this time, Absalom is thought to be
 Forty years old. And finding now, that he
 So strong a Party had, that he durst venture,
 Upon the Crown, by Force of Arms, to enter;
 And drive his too-kind Father from the Throne
 (Which He, amongst his Faction, call'd his own
 He held it best yet, Policy to use,
 The King his Father further to abuse;
 And gain some time, from his beguiled Father
 That so he might his scattred Forces gather
 Unto a Gen'eral Rendezvouz; and then
 Pour on his Father an whole Host of Men.

For this End therefore, to the Court he went
 And that he might be sure to Circumvent

the King; this *feigned Tale* he did devise,
 his *Treason*, with *Religion*, to disguise.

2 Sam.
 15.

While I, at *Geshur*, did an *Exile* live,
 I vow'd a *Vow*, That if the Lord would give
 Me *Favour* in thy Sight, and bring me home,
 That I, in peace, unto this Place might come:
 Then would I to the Lord an *Offe'ring* make
 At *Hebron*, where I Life at first did take.
 Now therefore, *gracious Sir*, be pleas'd, I pray,
 To grant *thy Servant* Leave; that go I may
 To *Hebron*, and perform the Vow I made
 Unto the Lord. The good King, thus *betray'd*
 By *feigned* words, said, Go in Peace. He might
 Have better said, Come back in peace, at Night.
 But *wise Men*, good Men, suffer'd are, sometimes,
 To fall into the *Snares* their former *Crimes*
 Have for them laid. Thus this unwitting King
 Helps forward that, which must upon him bring
 The *Judgment* * long since giv'n. *Uriah's Blood*
 Was not yet silenc'd; but still Cry's aloud.

*1 Sam.
 12. 11.

To

2 Sam.
15.

To *Hebron* now Prince *Absalom* doth Post,
And sends his *Scouts* abroad, through ev'ry Coast
Of *Israel*, that they might Notice give
To all his Friends, who did dispersed live
In all the Tribes; That when they once should hear
The *Trumpet* sound, they should for him appear
In Arms, Imbody; and where e're they came,
Amongst their Neighbours, they should him proclaim
And that, not faintly; but in lofty strain,
Say, *Absalom* doth now in *Hebron* Reign.

With *Absalom* too, from *Jerusalem*, went
Two Hundred chosen Men; who his Intent
Knew nothing of: but went unto his Feast.
By which his Strength, and Numbers were increased
For these were Men of choice Abilities
For War; as well to Fight, as to Advise.

But he for Counsel chiefly did rely
Upon *Abithophel*, whose Fame so high
Was in Esteem, that whatsoever He said
Was, as the Oracle of God, obey'd.

him, who had *Councillor* to *David* been, 2 Sam.
15.
now did to his *Faction* win:
and, from his *City Giloth*, did the Wretch
his *Head-Quarters*, now at *Hebron*, fetch.
and now this *foul Conspiracy* grew strong,
the People did so thick to *Hebron* throng.

C H A P. V.

WHILE thus the *Son*, with a disloyal Mind,
His *Father* to dethrone, by Force, design'd:
one loyal *Subject*, who had notice got,
both the *Preparation*, and the *Plot*,
needed to Court, that he might timely bring
the News, how bad soever, to the King;
that so the King might not, although betray'd,
unawares be *Slain*, or *Pris'ner* made.

Rushing in therefore, out of Breath, he said,
as! my Lord, O King, Thou art betray'd.

H The

2 Sam. 15. The Men of *Israel* are from thee rent,
 And *Absalom* to Crown are fully bent.
 Him they already have Proclaimed King;
 And mean thy *Scepter* from thy Hand to wring.
 So universally they take his part,
 As if, in this, They *All* had but *one* Heart.
 And he is drawing out his *Troops* apace,
 As if he aim'd to seize thee in this Place.

So *strange* a Message, so *unthought* a Thing,
 No wonder if it did surprize the King.
 Yet did it not from him his Judgment take,
 Nor him so wholly void of Counsel make;
 But that he thought, 'Twas better leave the City
 Than hazard it unto the *Rebell's* Pity.

Calling his Servants therefore, *Come*, he said
Arise, Let's Flee: seeing we are betray'd.
 Make speed away. Else we shall not Escape
 From *Absalom*, who for our *Lives* doth Gape:
 And, if he come, and find us in this Place,
 Will *Sack* the Town, perhaps: if not *deface*

the Royal Buildings, and, us to despite,

the People also, that are in it, Smite.

Whereas, if we be gone, He'll us pursue.

Place, and People, may that Hurt eschew.

2 Sam.
15.

This said, and in his House Ten Women left;

of his *native* Courage not bereft,

March't forth: His Household-Servants him attend;

And unto *Kidron-Brook* their Course they bend.

Come to the Brook, his little Troop he Musters,

More like the *Gleanings*, than the thickset *Clusters*

a full Vintage :) Yet enough to shew,

had some Friends yet left: though *but a few*.

Besides his Household (which was large) went o'er

Hundred Fighting Men; who, long before,

had been Companions of his Suffe'ring State

under King *Saul*: and whom no adverse Fate

could make to *flinch*; or so far to Transgress

the Bounds of Loyalty, as in Distress

To

2 Sam. 15. To leave him. These his *Vete'ran* Soldiers were
 And, in his Cause, would sell their Lives full dear
 These were his *Life Guards*, Men of wondrous Might
 Hardy and Strong, and Valiant too in Fight.

With these, as suiting well his Mind did fort
Ittai, the *Gittite*, lately come to Court.
 Him the King seeing, ready to go o'er
 The Brook, thus mildly spake unto; Wherefore
 Should'st Thou along with us go, to take part
 In my *Adventures*? who a *Stranger* art;
 And but new come. Return into the City.
 Thou yet art safe. And it would be great pity
 That I should draw thee into *Danger*, who
 Neither know what to do, nor where to go.
 Take back thy Brethren therefore, and abide
 With the *New King*, till God the Cause decide
 And, for the *Kindness* Thou to me dost show,
 May *Truth* and *Mercy* always with thee go.

The Noble *Gittite*, with a brave Disdain,
 Heard out the King. But then could not refrain

om telling him, How much himself he held
Honour bound, to serve him in the Field.
therefore solemnly protested, that
would not leave him in his *adverse* state.
t, with his Leave, wherever he should bend
Course, he would upon him there attend.
me Life, or Death, He would him not forsake:
t with him, to the last, his Lot would take.

2 Sam.
15.

So brave a *Resolution* needs must cheer
e King, not over apt to let in Fear.
en passing on together, without stay;
pity they to the Wilderness direct their way.

But *Zadock* and *Abiathar*, who were
that time *Priests*, and of the *Ark* took care;
ring lest It might Injury receive,
at *Jerusalem* they should it leave,
d brought it with them: Which when *David* saw,
stopt, and, with a reverential Aw,
Zadock said, Bear back the *Ark* again
Its Place; and let it there remain.

For,

2 Sam.
15.

For, if the Lord shall me vouchsafe the Grace,
That I once more, with Joy, may see his Face;
He'll bring me back, and I shall then behold
His Habitation as in days of Old.
But if he thus say, *I have no Delight*
In David: lo, I stand here, in his Sight,
Ready to bear, with *unrepining* Mind,
What He, to do to me, shall be inclin'd.
For well I know his *Judgments* all are just:
And in his *Mercy* I repose my Trust.

The *Ark* dispos'd; yet was not *David* clear:
He something had to say in *Zadock's* Ear.
He therefore ask't him, Art not thou a *Seer*?
(Thou, and *Abiathar* too, thy *Compeer*)
You therefore both will out of Danger be,
Your *Office* giving you *Immunity*.
Return into the City, and there stay,
As near to *Absalom*, as well you may.
Explore his Counsels. Pick up what you can;
And send it to me by some trusty Man.

thy Son, and his, fit *Messengers* may be,
to bring *Intelligence* from you to me.
in the *Plain* above, will stay, untill
hear from you how things go, Well or Ill.

2 Sam.
15.

This said, They part. They, with the *Ark* go back:
the King went forward; though with pace but slack.
Grief now seiz'd deeper, from a sense that He
must from the *Ark* of God thus banish't be;
and that by his own Son (Rebellious Child!
whom he always had been but too mild)
then confide'ring, that the Lord his God
him Chastize, in *Mercy*, with this *Rod*;
call'd to Mind *Uriah's Blood*, and wept;
te'ring, with Tears, the Ground whereon he stept.
on foot he went, and had his hoary Head
the Sign of highest Grief) close covered.
when he had, at length attain'd the top
of *Olivet*; he there did make a stop,
and worshipped the Lord: with humble Heart,
Kissing the Sacred Hand, which made him smart.

P

While

2 Sam.
15.

While here he staid, good *Hushai* came to meet him
And, with the Tokens of great Grief, did greet him
Hushai, his faithful Servant, and true Friend:
Whom hearty Sorrow made his Coat to rend,
And Earth to lay upon his Mournful Head.
Hushai, at Court, to Courtly Counsels, bred.
Hushai, than whom the King no Servant had,
More *able*, nor to serve his Lord more *glad*.

The King, at sight, concluding where he be
Might be dispos'd, to serve his Interest,
Said to him, ' If thou passest on with me,
' Thou unto me shalt but a Burden be.
' Go therefore to the City, and Salute
' King *Abshalom*. That done, prefer thy Suit
' That thou mayst be his Servant, as Thou wast
' His Father's faithful Servant, in days past.
' By this means Thou the *Counsels* of the great
' *Ahithophel*, mayst, for my good, defeat.
Then him directing, how he might convey
Intelligence: Each took his proper Way.

Not far had *David* gone beyond the Top
of *Olive's* Mount, when he another stop
Was fain to make. There *Ziba* ready stood
Holding two Asses, laden both with Food,
Fine *Manchet*, Summer *Fruits* and luscious *Wine*)
Whereon the King might, when he pleased, dine.

2 Sam.
16.

Well might the King suppose, this Present came
from his Friend's Son, *Mephibosheth* the lame;
Since *Ziba* brought it: who full well he knew,
Was *Steward* to *Mephibosheth*. This drew
the King to ask, Where is thy Master's Son,
That he came not? False *Ziba* thereupon
Reply'd. He at *Jerusalem* doth stay,
Down up with Hopes: Nor did he stick to say,
How shall the House of *Israel* restore
To me the Crown which my Grandfather wore.

The King, not *Ziba's* Treachery suspecting,
Too easily believ'd him; and reflecting
On the detestable Ingratitude,
Which he suppos'd *Mephibosheth* had shew'd,

2 Sam.
16.

Not having time to hear the Cause, forlook
The Course of Justice, and for granted took
The *unprov'd* Charge of a *designing* Knave,
And thereupon an *unjust* Judgment gave.
Whereby he from the *Innocent*, unheard
Took *All* he had : and *All* that *All* conferr'd
On the *unjust* *Accuser*, who deserv'd
A *Rope* much rather, had not *Justice* swerv'd.
The *sawning* Traytor, having sped so well,
Upon his *Knees* before King *David* fell ;
And, like unto a right dissembling Loon,
Gave humble Thanks for this so great a Boon.

Not far from thence, at *Bahurim*, came out,
As *David* thither came, a *sawcy* Lout.

One of the House of *Saul*, *Shimei* by Name,
Who rudely *Rail'd*, and *Curs'd* as he came.

‘ Come out, said he, Come out, Thou Man of Blood

‘ Thou Son of *Belial* ; who too long hast stood,

‘ The Lord hath now return'd upon thee all

‘ The guiltless Blood, which, in the House of *Saul*

Death by thy means been shed. The Kingdom, thou ^{2 Sam. 16.}
 Surped hadst, is taken from thee now;
 And given to thy Son. Thou taken art
 In the Devices of thine Evil Heart.

Nor staid he here. From *Words* he fell to *Blows*;
 With *Dust* and *Stones* he on King *David* throws,
 And on his Servants, who about him were
 On either side; to whom 'twas hard to bear,

Abishai, *David's* Nephew, seem'd to take
 His most to heart; and thus the King bespake.
 Should this dead Dog Curse my Lord the King?
 Let me go to him: and his *Head* I'll bring.

But *David* (who, although right well he knew,
 That railing *Shimei's* Charge was quite untrue,
 As far as he unto the House of *Saul*
 Ply'd it, where He had no Guilt at all:
 As, in the Book of Conscience daily read
 Of Guilt and Doom, for Blood unjustly shed,

^{2 Sam.}
^{16.} *Uriah's Blood*, for which he knew full well,

This Judgment from the Lord upon him fell.)

Would not permit *Abisbai*, for his sake,

Venge'ance on *Cursing Shimei* to take.

' Let him Curse on, said He: for, if he Curse

' By God's Command, who can think him the worst

' Do ye not see, said he, *that mine own Son,*

' Who from my Bowels sprang (and Cause hath not

' *Usurps my Throne*: Hath kindled mortal strife

' Amongst my Subjects; yea, and *seeks my Life*

' How much more then may this rude *Benjamin*

' Be born with, though he do me great Despite

' *Let him alone*. If God hath bid him Curse:

' It may, perhaps for me be ne'er the worse.

' Who knows, but that the Lord on me may look

' With Pity; when he sees how well I took

' Th' Affliction he laid on me: and with good

' May me requite, for *Shimei's* Cursing Mood.

CHAP. VI.

BY this time, to *Jerusalem* was come,
 In Royal Equipage, King *Absalom*:
 Leading, besides his *Train*, a nume'rous *Host*
 Of armed Men, drawn out of eve'ry Coast.
 Amongst his Friends, who made the greatest haſt
 To Salute, *Hushai* was not the laſt.
 He, coming to his Preſence, Cry'd aloud
 God ſave the King, God ſave the King (and bow'd)
 Under which Words he might his Meaning hide
 For they might well to *David* be apply'd.
Absalom had a Mind, it ſeems, to try
 Whether he ſafely might on him rely.
 Therefore he, at firſt Meeting, on him play'd,
 And, with a kind of *Exprobration* ſaid,

2 Sam. 16. How now! *Is this thy Kindness to thy Friend!*

Why went'st Thou not, that thou might'st him defend

Nay, but his will I be, *Hushai* reply'd,
Him will I serve; with him will I abide,
Whom God, and all the Men of *Israel* chuse:
None shall me of Unfaithfulness Accuse.
Should not I serve in presence of his Son,
As I thy *Father* serv'd (now he is gone)
Surely, As I was then at his Command:
So will I henceforth in thy presence stand.
All which he so *Equivocally* spake,
That Each the Words might in his *own* sense take
And *Absalom* did them in such sense take,
That of his *Council* he did *Hushai* make.

A *Council* call'd, he bid them think upon
The Work; and tell him what should first be done
Ahithophel, (who would not take it well,
That any, but himself, should bear the Bell)
Stood up, and *Absalom* he thus bespake;
Thy Father's *Concubines* forthwith Go take,

and in most publick manner them defile.

2 Sam.
16.

which will reputed be a Crime *so vile*:

that nothing ever can for it *Atone*.

will the People cleave to thee alone.

the Counsel pleas'd. *Absalom* lik'd it well.

to Praise their Oracle, *Ahithophel*.

Forthwith a *Tent* on the House-Top was spread,

where *Absalom* his Father's Wives should Bed.

he did so: void of Grace, and void of Shame;

and publicly his Father did defame,

which the *Sentence*, that before, from Heav'en,

was, by the *Prophet*, unto *David* given.*

*2 Sam.
12. 11.

was now fulfill'd: fulfill'd to the Extent.

by the *Example* still the like prevent!

Now did the treacherous *Ahithophel*

finding his wicked Counsel pleas'd so well)

proceed, to Counsel further. " Now Let me

forthwith choose out 12 Thousand Men, said he;

And go on the Pursuit, this very Night,

While *David's* weary, and unfit to Fight.

So

2 Sam. 17. ' So shall I him, and all his Men, so fright,
 ' That, they shall him forsake; and I will smite
 ' The King alone (whom only Thou dost lack
 ' To be Cut off) and bring the People back.

This Counfel was approved of, by all
 Then present: Yet King *Absalom* Bid, Call
Hushai the *Archite*, that (said he) we may
 Hear also what He, in this Case, can say.

Hushai brought in, the King to him did tell
 The Counfel given by *Ahithophel*.
 Then ask't. *Dost thou approve it? If not, shew*
Thy Reasons, and direct us what to do.

The wary *Archite* (knowing very well
 The haughty Temper of *Ahithophel*:
 That he might not be thought him to neglect)
 Exprest his Mind in Words to this effect.

Although I know, of all that fill this Table,
 There is not, *in the main*, a Man more able

Counsel, than the great *Abithophel*,
who doth in Wisdom Others far Excell:
at this time, and in the present Case,
must Confess, I cannot Go *his* pace.

2 Sam.
17.

If thou, with so much speed, should'st forward rush;
Thou'lt hazard All upon too sharp a Push.
Thy *Father* is a *Man of War*, Thou know'st,
And will not Lodge at Night among the Host.
He now, no doubt, is in some Pit, or Cave;
Where he himself, from a Surprize, may save.
Besides, both He and all his Men, we know,
are mighty *Men of Valour*; and will show,
When once Engag'd, They neither weary are,
Nor weak: but Chafe'd in Mind, much like a *Bear*
Of *Whelps* bereav'd, they'll fight. Nor will they yield
To twice Twelve Thousand Men the bloody Field.
Whereas thy Men, undisciplin'd and raw
May be more like, hard Charged, to withdraw,
And turn the Back, and some be overthrown:
Which when it shall among the Rest be known,
Will

2 Sam. 17. ' Will raise a *Rumour*, throughout all thy Host,
' That *Abjalom* the Field hath wholly lost;
' And where that Rumour takes, it will prevail,
' To make the *Courage* of the *Stoutest* fail.
' So shalt thou lose the Day; and either dy
' Upon the spot, be *Ta'en*, or forc'd to *fly*.

' Which to prevent, my Counsel is, That All
' The Men of *Israel*, in general,
' From one End, to the other, of the Land,
' Be drawn together, like th' *unnumb'red* Sand
' On the Sea-Shore; and thou, their Lord and Head
' Into the Field do them, in Person, lead.
' So shall we on thy Father, and his Men,
' Fall, like the Dew upon the Ground: and then
' Nor He, nor any that are with him, can
' Escape our hands: We'll have them, to a Man.

' But if he should into a *City* get,
' We'll shut him up therein; until we fet
' Ropes to the Place, and draw it down by force,
' And sink it in the *rapid* Water-Course.

Thus *Hushai*, like an Orator did play
 on his Hearers *Weakness*; and yet they
 did not perceive it. *Absalom*, and All
 the Men of *Israel* too, in general,
 did, *Hushai's* Counsel doth by far Excel
 the Counsel given by *Ahithophel*.
 nor is it strange: for 'twas the Lord that wrought
 this Change in them; that what before they thought
 as good, they now *dislik'd*: that he might bring
 ail on *Absalom*, their *Self-made* King.

But when *Ahithophel* (who ne'er could brook
 a competitor, nor on a Rival look,
 with disdain) observed had that they
 not only were resolv'd to disobey
 his Counsel (which he as *Direction*, gave;
 and did Expect *Applause*, and *Thanks*, to have)
 that *Hushai's* Counsel did to his prefer
 not able, An Affront so high, to bear)
 dling his Afs, away he strait did Trot;
 d, in good time, to his own City got.

Where,

2 Sam.
17.

Where, having *wisely* settled his Affairs,
He to the *Halter's Help*, with speed, repairs:
Which having firmly fast'ned to a Rafter,
He stretch't his Neck, to *avoid Affronts* hereafter
There let him Hang: while we look back, and
How *Hushai's* better Counsel did succeed.

When *Hushai* had done speaking, e're he knew
How it would be accepted, He withdrew;
And to the Priests (*Zadock, Abiathar*)
Related what had past, and what a *Jar*
Had been, in Counsels, 'twixt *Abithopel*
And *Him*: and, what Each had Advis'd, did tell
But not yet knowing which would follow'd be,
He wish't them to Inform the King, that He
Might not that Night Lodge in the Plain; but
Him o'er the River, that he might be freed
From Death and Danger, which he might sustain
If He should stay till Morning in the Plain.

The *Priests* two Sons without the City stay
(For to be seen within they were afraid)

and unto them their Fathers, by a *Maid*,
 the Message, they should go withal, convey'd.
 which when they had Receiv'd, away they ran;
 being seen go off, by a *Young Man*,
 thereupon Pursue'd, They, on the way,
 hid themselves in a *Well*. The *Wife* did lay
 Cove'ring o'er it, and thereon did spread
 round Corn; so were they not discovered:
 and, when the Coast was clear they posted on;
 and told the Message, which they came upon.

2 Sam.
 17.

David, thus warn'd arose: and, in the Night,
 pass'd over *Jordan*. By the Morning Light,
 and the People with him, All were gone:
 He of his Army miss'd they any one.

C H A P. VII.

2 Sam.
17.

TO *Mahanaim* now King *David* goes,
His *Friends* to meet with, and to miss his *Friends*
This was the Place, where *Jacob*, long before,
God's *Angels* meeting, did his Help implore;
And gave it then this Name: by which is shown
Two Hosts. God's Host of Angels: and his own

Here *David* Friendship found, and was supply'd
With needful Things, while he did here abide:
Which was not long. *Absalom* now an Host.
Had rais'd, of which he thought he well might boast
Over this Army he *Amasa* made
His General. With *Banners* then display'd
He over *Jordan* pass'd, a *Rebell* right,
Against his *Father*, and his *King*, to Fight.

When *David* knew, that his Son *Absalom*,
 with a great Host, was over *Jordan* come,
 gave him Battel: He his Men drew forth;
 though not many, were all Men of worth:
 though his Army was but small, he Chose
 into three *Battalians* to dispose.

2 Sam.
 18.

The *First* of these He unto *Joab* gave.
Joab, *Joab's* Brother, was to have
 the *Second*, Noble *Ittai* led the *Third*:
 and to none, for Use of Spear and Sword.
 The King himself intended too to go
 Head of them, as *Gen'eralissimo*:
 that the People by no means would yield,
 that he himself should hazard in the Field.
 They represented, that the Enemy
 would not regard, if *Half* of them should dy;
 much as if they him could take, or slay.
 Therefore they begg'd, He from the Field would stay:
 if Occasion should require, would send
 him Succours. He was fain to Condescend.

W

Q

But

2 Sam.
18.

But when they March't away, He, standing by
Shew'd a *Paternal Passion* in his Eye.

His *Bowels* roll'd towards his *graceless Son*,
And (as presaging that the Field was won)
Thus to the sever'al *Generals* he spake;
Deal gently with the Young Man, for my sake.

The *Field* now taken, and the *Battel* joyn'd,
The *Victory* to *David's Side* inclin'd:
But not without a cruel *Slaughter* made
Of them that were by *Absalom* betray'd
Into this *Treason*. *Twenty Thousand* fell
On his side. For, although he did excell
In *Numbers*: yet, they fighting in a *Wood*,
His *Numbers* could not do him half the good,
As, in an open *Champion Plain*, they might;
Where they could every *Man* have come to fight
Hopeless, at length the routed *Rebels* fly,
And *David's Men* pursue them eagerly.

In this Flight, *Absalom*, that he might shun
King *David's Men*, suffer'd his *Mule* to run

Under the thick Boughs of a spreading Oak;
Wherein his *Neck* being caught, as in a *Toke*,
The *Mule* went on, and left him hanging there,
Twixt Earth and Heaven, in the open air:
Nor could he free himself, his bushy *Hair*,
His *Ornament* before, was now his *Snare*.
Him, hanging thus, a certain *Soldier* saw;
And, passing by him with *respectful* Aw,
Casted to *Joab*, and to him thus spoke:
I saw King *Abs'alom* hanging in an Oak.
And didst thou! *Joab* said; Why did'st not smite
Him to the ground, and *Kill* him there *outright*?
Hadst thou done so, I would have kindly dealt
By thee, and given thee a *Soldier's-Belt*,
Beside *Ten* Shekels. O! cry'd out the Man,
Though I a *Thousand* Shekels might have wan,
I would not do't! For I did plainly hear
Our Lord the King (whom we ought All to fear)
In strict Charge give, that none should dare to touch
His Son, so as to Hurt him. And 'tis much
That thou thy self, if I this thing had done,
Would'st have, amongst the rest, against me run.

Q 2

Well,

2 Sam.
18.

Well, well, said *Joab*, 'Tis not now a time
To talk what would, or would not be a Crime.

Away He ran, and, with a *Threefold* Dart,
Peirc'd *Absalom*, yet living, through the Heart.
Then caus'd his *Armor-Bearers*, Ten young Men,
Out-right to kill him ; which they did : and when
He saw him dead, He a *Retreat* did found ;
That no more *Hebrew-Blood* might stain the Ground.

Thus fell th' *Usurper Absalom*. Thus fell
He, who against his Father durst *Rebell*.
Thus fell a *Prince*, in *Body* and in *Mind*,
So well Accomplish'd ; that he seem'd design'd
For Government, would he the time have staid,
And not his Royal Father's Throne Invade.

But blind *Ambition*, kind'ling hot desire
In him, had set his *boyling* Blood on fire.
He thought his Father drew too long his Breath,
Nothing would serve him but the *Crown*, or *Death*.

The *Crown* he miss'd. A cruel *Death* he found; 2 Sam.
Stab'd, Hackt & Hew'd, with many a gashly Wound. 18.

His mangled Body to a filthy Pit,
Near to the Place he fell in, they commit:
And, without *Ceremony*, load his Bones,
With an huge Heap of *unregarding* Stones.
Which must have serv'd him for a *Monument*,
Had not He, in his Life-time, with Intent
To keep his Name up, having then no Son,
Set up a *Pillar* (with his Name thereon:)
Which unto after-ages did remain;
And bore his Name, long after he was slain.

The Field thus won. And He, who was the Head
Of this unnatural Rebellion, dead:
The next Care was, such an Account to send
Unto the King, as might him least offend.

Some Strife arose, who should the *Tidings* bear;
And divers, for the Office, forward were.

2 Sam.
18.

Young *Ahimaaz*, good old *Zadock's* Son,
Of *Joab* begg'd, that he might therewith run,
But *Joab* doubting that it would not be
Acceptable, unwilling was that He,
Whom he well lov'd, should go: and rather chose
Another, than his *near Friend*, to expose.
For though the Victory was cause of Joy:
The Death of *Absalom* would that destroy.
He therefore bid *black Cush* go, and tell
The King the Matter, just as it befell.
He Ran. But *Ahimaaz*, not content,
Unless He too, on the same *Errand* went,
Did press so hard, for Leave to Run, that He
Got Leave: but by meer Importunity.
Then setting forth, and Running by the *Plain*,
He so much Ground did of the *Blackmoor* gain;
That He got first to Court; and That did tell,
Which needs must Please: for he said, *All is well.*

But when the King, whose Heart was set upon
The Welfare of his *disobedient* Son,

k't, *Is the Young Man safe?* Poor *Ahima'az*,
 not knowing what to say, did on him Gaze:
 both to Confess what he could not Deny,
 or yet well knowing how to put it by:
 that, which, with the King, was the main Chance,
 too well knowing, pleaded *Ignorance*.

2 Sam.
 18.

Then standing by, as bid: In *Cush* ran,
 to relate his *Message*, thus began.

Tidings, my Lord the King: for Thee, this day,
 the Lord avenged hath; so that all they,
 that rose against thee, now are overcome.

t, Cry'd the King, How is't with *Absalom*?

y, *Is the Young Man safe?* *Cushai* Replies,
 may it be with all thine Enemies,

'tis with him. The King it understood;

d from his Eyes strait Gushed forth a Flood
 melting Tears. Paternal Pity wrought
 on him, and into Excess him brought.

stairs he went: and, as he went, he Cry'd,

my Son ABSALOM! would I had dy'd

2 Sam.
18.

For thee, O ABSALOM, My Son, My Son!

And so went on; as if He'd ne'er have done.

His *Face* He cove'ed, and let loose the Rein

To *boundless* Grief; *of Noble Acts the Bane.*

This turn'd the *Triumph*, proper for the Day,

To *Mourning*. The brave Soldiers *slunk* away,

As Men *asham'd*. They who *the Field had won*

Steal in, as if they *from the Field had run.*

C H A P. VIII.

2 Sam.
19.

THIS was to *Joab* told, who weighing well

How much this *Carriage* might the *Courage* of

Of all the Army; or raise *Discontent*:

Which might prove *Dangerous*, in the Event.

(For *Soldiers*, if themselves they *sighted* find,

Will shift their *Sides*, as nimbly as the Wind,

He, that he might his *Duty* not forsake,

Went to the King, and, *Soldier-like*, thus spake.

Thy Servants All (who ventur'd have their Lives, ^{2 Sam. 19.}
To save both thee, thy Children and thy Wives)
Thou shamed hast, by shewing Thou extends
More Love to Enemies, than to thy Friends.
Thy Carriage this Day shews, Thou dost not heed
Or Prince, or Servant: for, in very deed
If *Abfalom* had liv'd, it's plainly seen,
And all we dy'd, Thou pleased well hadst been.
Wherefore *Arise*, Go forth, and kindly speak
Unto thy Servants. Else away They'll break
Before the Morning: for I boldly dare
Unto thee, by the God of *Israel*, Sware;
That, If Thou come not in the Peoples Sight,
There will not Tarry one with thee this Night.
And that will be worse to thee, I avow,
Than all the Evil Thou hast felt till now.

By this *bold* Speech (perhaps more *necessary*,
than either *Decent*, or *Discreet* and *Wary*)
so Rouz'd the King, that off he threw
his *Wayling-Fit*. And bei'ng a Prince that knew

How

2 Sam. 19. How to Comply with his Condition ; And
As well his Subjects *Humour*, as *Command* :
He hast'ned down unto the City Gate,
And there, as usual was, in Publick fate.
Which known, the People (who before had fled
Each to his Tent, as if they had no Head)
Now flock unto him, and with *deaf'ning* Sound
Of joyful *Acclamations*, him Surround.

And now a gallant *Emulation* rose
Amongst the Tribes ; Each to be *formost* chose
In shewing their *Affection* to the King :
And striving him in *Triumph* home to bring,
This first among those Men of *Isra'el* fell,
(Tis thought) Whom *Absalom* had made *Rebell*.
Who that they might wipe off the *Guilt*, and *Stain*
Of that *foul Crime*, and *Credit* so regain ;
Egg'd one another on, and seem'd to *Vie*
Which should most signalize his *Loyalty*,
In bringing back the King: Whom now they *Praise*
Recount his *Merits*, and Admire his *Ways*.

But *Judah*, his own Tribe, *too Backward* were,
 and *too Regardless* of the Common Care.

2 Sam.
 19.

His *drowsy Negligence* did grieve the King,
 that, therefore, them he to a Sense might bring
 what became them, He a Message sends
Zadock and *Abiathar*, his Friends;
 bidding them unto *Judah's Elders* speak
 from Him: and thus the matter to them break.

Why are ye, to bring back the King, the *last*?
 Why ye so *slow*, when others Run so *fast*!
 Have ye forgot, That ye my *Brethren* are,
 My *Bones* and *Flesh* (so have a greater share
 in me, than others) Why do ye let slip
 The Season? and let others you *out-strip*
 in Love and Loyalty? This *Caution* take,
 and to your selves Advantage of it make.

He bid them also to *Amasa* say,
Amasa, General, but th'other day,
 all the Rebels) 'Art not Thou to me
 a Kinsman, near by Consanguinity?

' Return

2 Sam. 19. ' Return to thy *Allegiance*, without dread:
' And be my *General*, in *Joab's* stead.

By these, and other such, engaging *Arts*,
He wrought so strongly on the Peoples Hearts,
That *Judah*, sensible they had been slack,
Now Hast'ned to him, to Conduct him back.

Got over *Jordan*, *Shimei* was the First
(*Shimei*, by whom he was so lately Curs'd,
And rudely treated) who, the *Tide* thus turn'd
Contrary to his Expectation, Mourn'd,
Or seem'd to Mourn: perhaps the crafty Knave
Might Sorrow feign, his guilty Head to save.
His *Guilt* and *Danger* did him forward Egge
To own his *heinous Crime*, and *Pardon* beg.

He therefore (thrusting in with *Judah's* Men)
Leading a Thousand of the Tribe of *Ben*:
To shew, perhaps, what Interest he had
(Which was the Worse in one that was so bad)

if Occasion were, his Cause to Plead,
 and for him with the King to interceed.
 was the First, I say, that met the King;
 and on his Knees, did thus *Peccavi* Sing.

2 Sam.
 19.

Let not my gracious Lord the King, said he,
 impute this day Iniquity to me!
 Nor bear in mind what I perversly said,
 and did against him, when he was betray'd!
 For I, thy Servant, know, that I therein
 am guilty of an execrable Sin.

Therefore I, with the *first*, am hither come.
 To wait upon my Lord, and bring him home.
 Pardon, Great Sir, *Pardon my Fault*, I pray:
 Let me find *Mercy* at thine hand this day.

Before the King could any Answer make,
 Ishbair, Zerviah's forward Son; thus spake.
 What! Shall not Shimei be put to Death!
 at Rebel Shimei! who, with poysonous Breath,
 and Rail upon, and Curse the Lord's Anointed!
 What, less than Death, can be to him appointed?

This

2 Sam.
19.

This sounded *harshly* in good *David's* Ear.

And that it did so, He soon made appear.

For, ' What, said he, have I with you to do,

' Ye busy Sons of *Zerviah*, that you,

' On all Occasions, still contrive to be

' As much as in you lies, averse from me?

' Shall any Man be put to Death this Day

' In *Israel*? The Lord, and I, say Nay.

' For have not I, think ye, good Cause to know

' That I, so lately near an Overthrow,

' Still King of *Israel* am, by divine Grace!

' Which should with you, as well as me, have Place

' For since the Lord this Day doth me Restore

' Unto the Throne on which I sat before:

' It ought to be a Day of *thankful* Joy;

' Which no sad *Execution* should annoy.

Then turning unto *Shimei*, ' Thou, said he,

' Shalt not be put to Death, for this, by me.

The End of the FOURTH BOOK

D A V I D E

DAVIDEIS.

BOOK V.

CHAPTER I.

AMONG therest, whom *Love*, or *Inte'rest*, drew ^{2 Sam. 19.}
 To meet the King, false *Ziba* came; who knew

When once his Master came in *David's* fight,
 His *Knavery* would then be brought to light.
 That therefore he might still Retain the Place,
 He had, by *Falshood*, gain'd in *David's* Grace;
 He, with his *Fifteen* Sons, and *Twenty* Men,
 Came, with Pretence to bring him home agen.

But now *Mephibosheth* (who, being *Lame*,
 Was not so *Nimble*) in due Season came,

To

2 Sam.
19.

To Clear himself from *Ziba's* false Report,
And on the Wretch his *Treachery* retort.

When the King ask't, why went'st thou not with me
Mephibosheth? ' My Lord O King, said He,
' My *faulty* Servant *Ziba*, me deceiv'd:
' And *helpless* me, he of his *help* bereav'd.
' I orde'red him to saddle me an Ass;
' That I thereon unto the King might pass,
' Not able else to Go. *Away he slipt,*
' And me, of Means to follow wholly stript.
' Nor is that all: But He hath *Slander'd* too
' Thy Servant to my Lord, with Words untrue
' But well I know, My Lord the King is Wise
' Do therefore what shall seem Good in thine Eyes
' I plead no *Merit*: All I have I place
' To the Account of thine abundant *Grace*.

Enough! Reply'd the King, My Word shall stand
Thou and thy Servant shall divide the Land.

Thus having *wrong'd Mephibosheth* before,
stripping him, *unheard*, of *all* his Store:
That Wrong he, by a somewhat *less Wrong* salves,
and doth the Wrong'd Man Justice but by *Halves*.

2 Sam.
19.

Mephibosheth not only was most Clear
from *Ziba's* Charge; as plainly did appear:
but also had so true a Mourner been,
for *David's* Trouble, that he ne'er was seen
to *Dress his Feet*, though lame; nor *Trim his Beard*:
nor in *clean Linnen* ever had appear'd,
to Cheer his Body, from the very Day,
which the King, distressed, went away;
till the Day he came again; which made
his Case the harder, being duly weigh'd.
He, good Man, for Joy the King was come
Peace, and Safety, to his Royal Home;
regardless what might to himself befall,
said, Ay, *Let Ziba*, if he will, *take all*.

We heard before of certain Men, that came
to bring the King Supplies, at *Mahanaim*.

R

Of

Sam.
19.

Of these *Barzillai* was, the *Gileadite*;
Who did the King Support, with great Delight.
The sense whercof did so affect the King,
That to *Jerusalem* he fain would bring
The *good old Man*; that there he might have shew'd
The highest Marks of *Royal Gratitude*.

But good *Barzillai* did to go refuse.
And, by his Age, himself therefrom excuse.
' I am, said he, full *Fourscore* Years of Age,
' And therefore, with good Reason, may presage
' My Days cannot be many. I am past
' The *Pleasures* of a *Court*. I cannot taste
' My Food with *Relish*. 'Twere an Oversight
' For me in *vocal Musick* to delight.
' My Ear's too heavy to distinguish Sounds.
' And me the *Harbinger* of *Death* furrounds.
' Why then should I a further *Burden* be
' Unto my Lord the King! Oh no! Let me
' Wait on thee over *Jordan*, and Return
' Unto my City, and my Parents Urn:

That there, amongst my People, I may dy, 2 Sam.
19.
And in my Father's *Sepulcher* may ly.
But lo, my Son, thy Servant *Chimham*; He
Shall wait upon my Lord, and always be
At thy Cõmmand. Him to thee I commit:
And thou mayst do to him what thou think'st fit.

Ay, that I will, said *David*, and to thee
Will give besides what thou shalt ask of me.
This said, the good Old Man He kindly kist,
And, with his Royal *Blessing* him dismiss.

Then March't he on, attended very well,
By *Judah*, and one *Half* of *Israel*.
That Half, or Part, be it suppos'd to be,
Which was not from the late Rebellion free:
And therefore now would more Officious seem,
That they their shaken Credit might redeem.

But now again a fresh *Contention* rose
Between them, which of *Friends* soon made them *Foes*.

2 Sam.
19.

These Men of *Isra'el* could not now contain
Their Anger; but did to the King Complain
Of *Judah*; that they *stole* from them the King:
That *they alone* might him o'er *Jordan* bring.
The *ground* of which they did not understand;
And therefore did their *Reasons* now demand.

The Men of *Judah* briskly Answer'd thus.
Because the King is *near of Kin* to us.
More *brisk*, than *true*. *David*, indeed, was so:
But not the *King*. Kings are of *Kin*, we know,
To *all* their Subjects; and *alike* to all,
That Faithful are to them, both *Great* and *Small*.
Why, added *Judah*, do ye then Contend?
We did our Duty, without selfish End.
We neither *Eat* at the King's Charge, nor yet
Receiv'd from *Him* a *Gift*, or *Benefit*.

But we (the Men of *Israel* reply'd)
Have that to say which will the Cause decide;
For we have *Ten* Parts in the King; while you
Cannot pretend, at most, to more than *Two*.

Why then, since we the *greater* Number are,
Did ye *despise* us? and proceed so far,
As to bring back our Sov'reign Lord the King,
Without *Consulting* us; and thereby bring
Contempt upon us? Thus they *Braul* and Chide;
And tofs the *fiery Ball* from Side to Side.
But *Judah's* Words, in this Contention, fell
More hot and fierce, than those of *Israel*.

2 Sam.
19.

CHAP. II.

HOW needful 'tis hot *Anger* to suppress!
Nor suffer *Wrath* to rise into *Excess*!
Not to give way to *Passion*! Nor too high
Present an apprehended *Injury*!
Much less to let the *Tongue*, upon Debate,
Break loose, in Words which may exasperate.
For Words oft times, like *Flint* on *Steel*, strike Fire,
And thereby the *Contention* raise the higher.

2 Sam.
20.

2 Sam. 20. So have I seen what from a *Sparkle* came,
Blown, by hot *Breath* into a furious *Flame*.

Thus, in the present *Contest*, it befell
The Men of *Judah* and of *Israel*.
The Men of *Isra'el* did *Resent* too high
A *slight* Offence: *Judah* at them Let fly
A *Thunde'ring Volly*, in such *cutting* Words,
As wounded deeper than the sharpest Swords;
And made the *Isra'elites* almost Repent,
That e'er to wait upon the King they went.

This bei'ng observ'd by *Sheba*, *Bichri's* Son,
A Benjamite, who, thither that Day run
Among the rest: Not willing to let go
So fit a time, his *factions Mind* to show,
He blew a Trumpet; and each *Isra'elite*,
To fresh *Rebellion*, did thus Invite.

No Part have we in *David*: Nor possess
We any Share now in the Son of *Jess*.

Wherefo

Wherefore, O *Israel*, to your Tents betake
Your selves forthwith; and *Jesse's* Son forsake.

2 Sam.
20.

So spake this Man of *Belial*, and so did
The Men of *Isra'el*: strait away they slid
From *David*; and with nimble Paces run
After rebellious *Sheba*, *Bichri's* Son.

But *Judah* Clave intirely to their King:
And him in Honour safely Home did bring.

Being come Home, the first thing by him done,
Was to shut up those *Concubines*, his Son
Defiled had; to whom he did Allot
No Maintenance: but thenceforth us'd them not.

That done, he did *Amasa* to him Call
Whom he design'd to make his General)
And bid him All the Men of *Judah* raise,
And bring them thither to him, in three Days.
Away *Amasa* went, But longer staid:
Although what hast he could, he therein made.

2 Sam.
20.

The King, uneasie at *Amasa's* Stay
(As knowing, Danger rises from Delay)
Abisbai to him call'd, and bid him take
The Forces ready. After *Sheba* make
With all the Speed he could; lest he should get
The fensed Towns, his Treason to abet.

Out March't *Abisbai*, leading *Joab's* Men,
The *Cherethites* and *Pelethites*: but when,
Upon the Way, *Amasa* in did fall;
He led the Army on, as General.

Joab, not by the King expressly sent,
Yet, loving Action, with his Soldiers went.
And, not *Amasa* brooking (as indeed,
He ne'er lik'd any, that should him succeed)
He so the Matter order'd, that his Sword,
In Marching, should, as of its own accord,
Drop from the Scabbard: up he snatch't it, and
Carelessly carr'd it naked in his Hand.

Amasa saw it: but suspected not,
That *Joab* therein had on him a Plot.
For, taking it to be an Accident,
He was, for his own Safety, less intent.
Joab advanc'd. And, under feigned show
Of Kindness, ask't him, Brother, how dost do?
Then, by the Beard him taking, him he Buſs'd:
And therewithal his Sword into him thrust.
But drop'd his Bowels: There *Amasa* lay,
Wallowing in his Blood, upon the Way.
So dy'd a great and valiant Man: so fell,
By Treachery, a Prince in Israel.

On *Joab*, with *Abishai*, went, in Quest
Of *Sheba*; leaving One, to tell the Rest,
That He, who favour'd *Joab*, and who was
For *David*, after *Joab* on should pass.
Which notwithstanding, as the Men drew nigh
The Place, where their slain General did ly;
They made an *Halt*: nor would a Step advance;
But gazing stood, like People in a Trance.

Which

2 Sam. 20. Which *Joab's* Man observing (as behoov'd)
Amasa's Corps, out of the Way, remov'd
 Into a Field, and Cove'red it: Which done,
 The People straitway after *Joab* run.

Sheba, mean while, through all the Tribes had pa
 And to the City *Abel* came at last;
 Having pick't up the *Berites*, in his Way;
 Of his own Tribe, who meant with him to stay

To this strong Place *Joab* close Seige doth lay,
 And on the Wall his Batte'ring Rams do play.
Sheba, within, resolves (but all in vain)
 The Town 'gainst all Opposers to maintain.
 The Seige grows hot; the Engines shake the Wall
 The next Assault is like to make it fall.
 Which if it do, The Soldiers strait rush in,
 With Sword in Hand, and so the City win.
 That done, They, in their Heat, the People slay
 And afterwards, They seize upon the Prey.

This well foreseen was, by a *City-Dame*,
 Who, to prevent it, on the Bulwark came;
 And cry'd to the *Beseigers*, Hear, O Hear:
 And speak, I pray, to *Joab* to come near,
 That I with him may speak. He straitway came
 Not thinking much to *Parley* with a *Dame*
 (though though he was) She, his Attention won,
 In *Antient Custom* urging, thus begun.

2 Sam.
20.

' In old Time they (said she) were wont to say,
 At *Abel*, surely, they will Counsel Pray;
 And so the Matter ended. Thus she *Nipt*
 Him neatly. For that He, in haste, had slipt
 The Law of * *Heraldry*; which did provide,
 That *Peace* should *first* be offer'd, Fair Means try'd,
 Before a *Seige* was laid. Which had he done,
 He needed not, this *hostile Course* have run.

* Deut.
20. 15.

Having thus gently pinched him, because
 He had not well observ'd the *Fecial* Laws;
 She told him, though her Citizens, and She,
 Though *Faithful* were and *Peaceable*: yet He

Sought

2 Sam.
20.

Sought to destroy a City, known full well
To be a *Mother* too, in *Israel*.

Then ask'd him, How he could the Seige advance
To *swallow up* the Lord's Inheritance.

This startled *Joab*. Far, far be't from me,
That I should *Swallow* or *Destroy*, cry'd he.
The Matter is not so. But ye Protect
A *Rebel* who King *David* doth Reject.
Sheba, the Son of *Bichri*, is his Name
(To you, and all true *Israelites*, a Shame)
Deliver him alone, and I, in pity
To you, will *Raise* my Seige, and *free* your City

Nay, said the Woman, sure, if that be all:
His *Head* shall be thrown to thee o'er the Wall
Then to her Citizens the Woman went,
And did to them so *wisely* represent
The Case, their Danger; which so close she put
That *Sheba's* Head they forthwith off did Cut,
And o'er the Wall it unto *Joab* threw:
At sight whereof he strait a Trumpet blew,

which rais'd the Seige. All to their Tents Retire. ^{2 Sam.}
 e *Womans Wisdom* justly all admire. ^{20.}

CHAP. III.

THESE two *Rebellions* quelled, which of late
 Gave such Disturbance to the *Civil State*;
 the Court *new-modell'd* was, *Removes* were made
 Ministers, some *Old* aside were laid.
 ly fierce *Joab* (who was now more *Bold*,
 an *Welcom* to the King) his Place will hold.

A *standing Army* David Muster'd then,
 consisting of *Three Hundred Thousand* Men.
 which into *Twelve Brigades* divided were:
 answering to the *Twelve Months* of the Year.
 each Brigade were *twice Twelve Thousand*, and
 e *Thousand Officers* did them Command.
 ese took their Turns, in times of Peace, to be
 Month on Duty: and from thenceforth free,

1 *Cron.*
 27.

Till

^{1 Chron} Till that Month came again. Thus, once a ye
^{27.} Each Brigade, did at Court, in Arms appear.
 But All, in time of War, did ready stand,
 On sound of Trumpet to obey Command.
 These to the Field King *David* often drew,
 His Enemies, on all sides, to subdue.

^{2 Sam.} Four Fields he with the *Philistins* did Fight.
^{21.} To each of which they brought a Man of Might
 An *Anakim*, One of *Goliath's* Race;
 Whom *David's* Warriours did not only Chase:
 But *single-handed* did them singly Slay;
 And, each time, bore the Victory away.

We read of British *Arthur*, and his Table
 Of Warlike Knights (which some account a Fable
 But grant it true :) They never might compare
 With *David's* Worthies, as their Deeds declare
^{2 Sam.} Which whoso lists may, if he please to look,
^{23.}
^{1 Chron} Read, at his leisure, in the Sacred Book.
^{21.}

Not less concerned was this *pious* King
d's Honour to promote; His *Praise* to Sing;
vance his *Worship*; Celebrate his Name;
d others, with like Godly Zeal, Inflamm.

2 Sam.
6.

The *Ark* of God (which long before had been
e Scorn and Scourge of the proud *Philistin*,
d with *Abinadab* had since remain'd;
ho for his Entertaining it had gain'd
eat Blessings from the Lord) the Zealous King,
ith *Israel* and *Judah*, went to bring
to *Jerusalem*: but, through Mistake,
ring, the Sacred Law they plainly brake.

The *Levites* (Sons of *Kohath*) ought to bear
e *Ark*, upon their *Shoulders*. They, to spare
eir *Shoulders* (learning the *Philistian* Art)
ck not to Clap the *Ark* into a *Cart*.

d's *Ark* they trust to *stumbling* Oxen, which
ght have the *Ark* o'erthrown into a *Ditch*.
e Oxen's *stumbling* caus'd the *Ark* to *shake*;
ell meaning *Uzzah* Care thereof doth take:

Puts

2^{Sam.} 6. Puts forth his Hand, and holds it, lest it fall.
He is *struck Dead*: and that *affrights* them all.

The Lord's a *Sov'reign* Prince; and won't perm
That Man should vary from his Law *a whit*.
The Law was plain and easy; all must say,
The Fault upon the *Levites* only lay.
Displeas'd was *David* that through their defau't,
So great a Plague was on poor *Uzzah* brought.
And since the Breach by God himself was made,
David was also of the Lord afraid.
Lest of the *matter* he should disapprove,
As well as *manner*, e'en the *Ark's* Remove.
Not daring therefore at that time, to bring
The *Ark* unto *Jerusalem*, The King
Left it at *Obed-Edom's*; who was blest,
During the time the *Ark* with him did rest.

But three Months after, on a *better* Thought,
The *Ark* into *Jerusalem* was brought
In its due order; and was placed there
In a fair Tent, which *David* did prepare.

er he, before he would attempt again,
that he before attempted had in vain,
convening *Priests* and *Levites*, did declare,
ne *but the Levites ought the Ark to bear.*
them therefore Charg'd, themselves to sanctify,
at to the *Ark* they safely might draw nigh,
and take it up: which had they done before;
they had not suffer'd what they now deplore.
then on they go, and, as they go, Rejoyce,
singing on Instruments, with Sound of Voice.

2 Sam.
6.

But none, of all the Company, more glad
appear'd to be, than *David*; who was clad
in *Linnen Ephod*, and did Leap and Dance
before the *Ark*, with joyful Countenance.

This *Dress*, and *Gesture*, his Wife, *Michal*, spies;
and looking on him with disdainful Eyes,
spoke forth in *Taunting* Terms. For which she was
condemn'd, her Life in *Barrenness* to pass.
The Punishment indeed! which her did bind
from Bearing him, who was to save Mankind.

S

The

2 Sam. 6. The *Ark* thus brought, and with triumphant Grace
And due Devotion, settled in its Place;
The pious King, who did before it dance,
Now studie'd how God's Honour to advance.

1 Chron 23. The *Priests* and *Levites* he dispos'd in Courses
(As he before had done His Martial Forces)
To each their sever'al Service he Assign'd,
Which they should Execute, with willing Mind
Some to *Burnt Offerings* and *Sacrifices*;
With *Rites* belonging to those Exercises.
On Instruments of *Musick* some to play,
And *Praise* the Lord, upon each *solen* Day.
To *Prayer*, some. Some, to *Give Thanks*. Some, *Bl*
The Lord, and his great Wonders to Express.

2 Sam. 7. Nor staid he here. His right Religious Mind
To Build an House for *Isra'el's* God, inclin'd.
A *Sacred Temple* He design'd to build,
Which with majestick *Glory* should be fill'd.

This Godly Purpose of his Royal Heart
 The good King, to the *Prophet* did impart,
 The *Prophet*, *Nathan*, of the Motion glad,
 That he might Vigour to the King's Mind add;
 (Too hastily, without Command) said, Go,
 And what is in thine Heart to do, that do:
 For God is with thee. The good Man, I wiss,
 Through strong Desire to have it done, did Miss.

For the same Night the Lord his *Prophet* bid
 To tell his Servant *David* (which he did)
 That in thine Heart it was, an *House* to raise
 To me, wherein to Celebrate my Praise,
 Take it well. But thou therefrom art freed.
 Thy *Will*, by me, is taken for the *Deed*.
 Thou shalt not Build the *House*: for Thou hast led
 Great Armies to the Field, much *Blood* hast shed.
 But when thy Head is laid, A *peaceful* King,
 Who of thy Seed, and from thy Loins shall spring,
 Shall build my *House*; which must be built in Peace.
 Who Builds for God, from War and Blood must cease.

2 Sam.
7.

Submissive *David*, with an humble Mind,
Intirely to the Will of God resign'd ;
In solemn Manner, did to God Express
His hearty Thanks, and his great Name did Bless
And still, with Diligence, himself Apply'd,
Materials, for the *Building* to provide.
Gold, Silver, Precious Stones, Brass, Iron, Wood
Of divers Sorts : whatever seem'd Good
For *choicest Use*, He in *abundance* Stor'd,
Won, from his Enemies, by Dint of Sword.
To which he added so much of his own,
As drew his *Princes* (when it once was known)
Chief Fathers, Captains, Rulers, to express
By their *free Offerings*, their *Thankfulness*.
All which the King deliver'd to his Son,
Young *Solomon*, with plain Direction,
What he thereof should to each Use apply.
Which keeping to, he could not Tread awry.

C H A

C H A P. IV.

DURING the Reign of *David*, there had been, <sup>2 Sam.
21.</sup>
Three Years successiv'ly (no Ease between)

A raging *Famine*; which did sore oppress
The *Israelites*, and brought them to distress.

The long Duration of this *pinching* Dearth
(Which Pin'd the People, and defac'd the Earth)
Made *David*, of the Lord, the Cause Enquire,
Which against *Isra'el*, had provok'd his Ire.

The Answer was, It was for *Faithless Saul*,
And for his *bloody* House, this *Plague* did fall
Upon them: for as much as, in despite
Of publick Faith, He slew the *Gibeonite*.

How, when, where, why, he did this Fact commit,
H A s not deliver'd in the *Sacred Writ*.

2 Sam.
21.

Only we read, *Saul did it in his Zeal*
For *Israel's* and *Judah's* Common Weal.

*2 Sam.
28.

Some think he did it, when to Death he put
The *Sorcerers*, and *Wizards* * off did cut.
Though when that too was done, is not so clear
In Holy Writ, to be Ascertain'd here.

The *Gibeonites* were not of *Israel*,
Although They with the *Israelites* did dwell.
They, of the *Amorite*, a Remnant were,
A People, *Israel's* Sword was not to spare.
Which they fore-knowing, by a *crafty Wile*,
Good *Joshu'a*, and the *Princes*, did beguile.

These, feigning that *Ambassadors* they came
From a *far Country*, did a *Story* Frame;
That they so long had on their Journey been,
That their *Provisions* (which was plainly seen)
Corrupted were. Their *Bread* which *Hot* from home
They said they brought, was *Mouldy* now become.

Wine

Wine-Bottles Old, Rent and bound up, they shew: ^{2 Sam. 21.}

Which they affirm'd, when they came out were New.

Their Tatter'd Cloaths, and Clouted Shooes, did make

The *Isra'elites* give Heed to what they spake.

And, being by this *Stratagem* betray'd,

An unadvised *League* They with them made,

To Let them Live: And bound it with an Oath,

The Breach of which would unto divine *Wrath*

subject th' *Infractors*. For the Princes Sware

By the Lord God of *Isra'el*, who'll not spare

The Man, or People, that in vain shall take

His Sacred Name: but them *Examples* make.

Well near four Hundred Years this *League* was kept

Inviolate, till all the *Judges* slept;

And the good Prophet *Samuel* was gone

To Rest; and wicked *Saul* Usurp'd the Throne.

For after *Saul*, by God, Rejected was

His *Reign* must but for *Usurpation* pass)

And probably it was not very long

Before his *End*, he did this cursed Wrong.

2 Sam. 21. For had it early been, it may be thought,
The Punishment had *in his time* been brought.

When now King *David*, on Enquiry, knew
What 'twas, that on the Land this *Judgment* drew
He call'd the *Gibeonites*, and bid them say,
What they would have him do, to take away
The *Guilt* of Blood, And how he might Atone,
For the Injustice *Saul* to them had done :
That, *Satisfaction* given, They might bless
The Lord's Inheritance, with such Success,
'That He, *Appeased*, might his heavy Hand
Remove, and Smile again upon the Land.
For *Justice* God regards. And therefore He,
How low soe'er the Wronged Party be,
Will *Righted* have, before he will remove
The Rod, wherewith he doth *Chastise* in Love.

The *Gibeonites* Reply'd, We neither seek
Saul's Gold or Silver; nor desire to Reek
Revenge upon his House: Nor is't our Will,
That, for our sakes, thou any Man should'st kill

In *Israel*. But this is what we Crave,
 The only Thing, which we desire to have.
 The Man who us so cruelly Anoy'd,
 And who would us intirely have destroy'd,
 Let *Seven of his Sons*, without delay
 Delive'red be to us, that them we may
 Hang up, in *Gibeah*, unto the Lord.
 To their Demand King *David* did Accord.

2 Sam.
21.

Small Choice He had, out of *Saul's House*, to take
 ev'n Men, *Atonement* for *Saul's Sin* to make.
Mephibosheth, He had a special Care,
 For *Jonathan* his Father's sake, to spare:
 Having Regard to *Friendship*, and the *Oath*,*
 Which long before had pass'd between them both.

*1 Sam.
20. 42.

Of all *Saul's Sons*, but *Two* were now alive.
 Unhappy They, that they did him survive,
 To undergo an *Ignominio'us* Death
 For *his* Offence;) Of these *Mephibosheth*,
 The Younger, was: *Armoni* was the other:
 Both Sons of *Rizpah*, their afflicted Mother.

Five

2 Sam.
21.

Five Sons of *Merab*, to make up the Tale,
He pitch't upon. *Merab* might well bewail
Her double Loss. Of *David* first, and then
Of her *Five* Sons: A set of proper Men.
For had she Marrie'd *David* (which, of right,
She should have done) She, without question might
Have still enjoy'd her Sons: Her self have been
A joyful *Mother*, and a topping *Queen*.

The Number thus made up, the King Command
They should delive'red be into the Hands
Of the wrong'd *Gibeonites*. They, in a Word,
Hang'd them up, Man by Man, before the Lord.

This needful *Execution* was done,
When *Barley-Harvest* was but new begun;
And the dead Bodies being to remain
Unburied, till the Lord, by sending Rain
(The want of which was the next Cause of *Deart*
Should his Acceptance shew, and Bless the Earth
Religious *Rizpah*, that she might defend
Them from all Danger, on them did attend

live

During

during the time, as well by Night as Day.

2 Sam.
21.

that neither *Bird*, nor *Beast*, might on them prey.

for which End, on the Rock, where they lay dead,

as a *Pavilion* did, of Sackcloth, spread.

Which pious Act of hers when *David* heard

After the Lord Propitio'us had appear'd)

He took the *Bones* of *Saul*, which did remain

at *Jabesh Gilead* (where they long had lain)

together with the *Bones* of *Jonathan*,

his Noble Friend (a brave and worthy Man)

and Gathe'ring up the *Bones* of these, who now

had Hanged been: He on them did bestow

Funeral; and did them all Interr

Kiss their Father's proper Sepulcher.

Which done, according to the King's Command:

the Lord was pleas'd to Bless again the Land.

C H A P.

C H A P. V.

2 Sam.
24.

WHEN now the Lord had his *Anointed* Bless'd
As well with *inward* Peace, as *outward* Rest
Having subdu'd his Enemies, and made
His Neighbours, round about him, all afraid
Him to Offend: So that he now could say
Unto his Friends, *This is the happy Day* *
The Lord hath made; Let us, with tuneful Voice,
And thankful Heart, in this his Day Rejoyce,

* Psal.
118.24

When to this *peaceful* State, the *happy* King
Arrived was, that he could sweetly Sing
Psalms of Thanksgiving, while his Fingers plaid
And on his Harp *Melodious* Musick made:
The restless *Adversary* of Mankind
(Who Mischief always had to Man design'd)
Envy'ing the Happiness which now befel,
Under so good a King, poor *Israel*;

Did with a *Thought* his Royal Breast inspire,
Which quickly set both *Heart* and *Head* on Fire.
It kindled in him an *ambitious* Mind
To know his Strength, and strongly him inclin'd
To *Number* all his People, such as are
Fit to bear Arms, and Muster'd be for War.

2 Sam.
24.

To *Joab* therefore, as his General,
He gave Command to Go, and Number all
The People, fit for War, in eve'ry Tribe;
And, in a *Muster-Roll*, their Names describe:
That He might thereby know (vain Mind, alas!)
How Strong, in Military Force, he was.

The *Snare*, which *David* saw not, *Joab* saw;
And labour'd *David* from it to withdraw:
But all in vain. The King was fully bent
To have his *Will*: *Joab* about it went
Unwillingly; and, in some Ten Month's Time,
Returning, shew'd the King his *Strength*, & *Crime*.

For

2 Sam.
24.

For he no sooner the *Account* gave in,
But *David*, *Smitten in Himself*, His *Sin*
Confessing, said, *I sinned greatly have*
In that which I have done. And now I Crave
Thy Pardon, Lord: and do most humbly Pray,
That Thou'lt be pleas'd to take my Sin away.
Ah! Sensible I am, that herein I
Have Err'd, and done exceeding foolishly.

Next Morning God, in high Displeasure, sent
His Prophet, to denounce a Punishment
(To *David* for his Sin. The Prophet goes,
And thus his Message doth to him disclose.

Thus said the Lord, Three Sorts of Punishment
I set before thee; and am fully Bent
One of them to inflict: but leave to thee
The Choice, which of them shall inflicted be.
Choose therefore one; which I may to thee do
For thy Offence shall not unpunish'd go.

*1 Chro
21. 12.

Shall * Three Years more of Famine in thy Land
(Which Three Years hath already suffer'd) stand

OR wilt Thou, for *Three Months* together, *Flee* ^{2 Sam. 24.}
Before thine Enemies, and *Chased* be?

OR shall, throughout thy Land, the *Pestilence*
For *Three Days* rage, to punish thine Offence?

Now advis'd, said *Gad*, think well what Word
shall, from thee, Return unto the Lord.

Here the *Gradation* sinks, as it appears,
from *Months* to *Days*, and unto *Months* from *Years*.

Three Months of bloody *War*, 'tis likely, may

as many, as *Three Years* of *Famine*, slay.

And *Three Days* *Pestilence* accounted are

equal to *Three Months* of devouring *War*.

Great was the *Straight* poor *David* now was in

ah! *What but Straights attends presumptuous Sin!*

Which of the *Three* to Choose, He's unprepar'd.

To Choose was *Favour*: But the *Choice* was *hard*.

Famine the Land had felt too late before:

That too would *first*, and *most*, affect the *Poor*.

Himself

2 Sam. Himself it would not Reach; to whom, he knew
24. The Rod was chiefly, if not only, due.

Like Reason was of War. In Person He
Might be, for *Three Months* time, from Danger
Besides, if *Isra'el* should be beat, and fly
So long and oft: it might the *Enemy*
Embolden, of their Strength, or Cause, to boast
And to Blaspheme the Lord, the God of Hosts.

These therefore wav'd, the King resolv'd, at last
Himself into the *Hand* of God to Cast.
Into the Hand of God, said He, let's fall;
And humbly unto him for *Mercy* call.
His Mercy's great. I, by Experience, know
He will, upon *Repentance*, *Mercy* show.
In Him I trust. To Him, distressed I fly:
And on his *tender Mercies* I rely.
But let me not into the Hands of Man
Be cast: for He will do the *Worst* he can.

The *Choice* thus made, the *Pestilence* is sent
throughout the Land; the *Angel* swiftly went,
having his *flaming* Sword, whereby there fell
twenty Thousand Men in *Israel*,
in three Days time. But when the *Angel* came
to shake his *Blade* against *Jerusalem*
The *Royal City*, the *Imperial Seat*,
the *Cabinet* of what was *Choice* and *Great*)
the *mournful* King, with *Isra'el's* Elders, Clad
in *Sack-Cloth*, with their *Countenances* *sad*,
fell on their Faces, at the dreadful Sight
of that *devouring* Blade, stretch'd out, to smite
the People: And the *trembling* King thus pour'd
his *Supplication* forth before the Lord.

' Ah! *Am not I the Man*, that gave *Command*
The People should be Numb'd thro' the Land?
'Tis even I, that did this Sin Commit.
O that I *only*, suffer might for it!
On me, and on my House, O Lord, I pray,
Be pleas'd, for what remains, thy Hand to lay!

T

' But

2 Sam.
24.

But not upon thy People in this City.

‘ Oh! on these harmless Sheep, I pray have Pity;

‘ And let not them be plagu’d for my Offence:

‘ Accept my Pray’r. Regard their Innocence.

This earnest Supplication Heav’n pierc’d,
And the Remainder of the Doom Revers’d.

The Lord, Repenting, to the Angel said,
It is enough. Now let thine Hand be staid.

The Angel stood, when this *blest Word* was giv’n
By *Ornan*’s Threshing-Floor, ’twixt Earth & Heav’n
And *Ornan* (or *Araunah*) when he spy’d
The Angel, ran, with his Four Sons, to hide.

But *David*, being by *Gad* instructed, went
To buy the Threshing-Floor, with full Intent
To rear an *Altar*, in that very Place
Unto the Lord; and there to seek his Face.

Araunah, looking forth, and seeing the King
Cometowa’rds him; on the ground himself did fling

The Cause Enquiring, which him thither brought; ^{2 Sam.}
Which, in so great a Prince, must great be thought. ^{24.}

My Bus'ness is, reply'd the King, to Buy
Of thee thy *Threshing-Floor*, that thereon I
May Raise an *Altar* to the Lord, and see
By *Peace-Offe'rings*, He appeas'd will be.
That so, his just Displeasure bei'ng allay'd,
The *Plague*, inflicted on us, may be stay'd.

O, said *Araunab*, let my Lord the King
Accept the Ground: Thou needest Nothing bring.
The *Oxen*, for *Burnt-Offe'rings*; and the *Wheat*,
For the *Meat-Offe'ring*, take too, I entreat.
The *Threshing Instruments* may serve the turn,
Instead of *Wood*, the Offerings to Burn,
And mayst thou by the Lord accepted be
Assure, as these are freely giv'n by me.

Nay, Hold, said *David*, Do not think that I
Begging came? I came indeed to buy:

T 2

And

2 Sam. And buy I will; and that too at full Price.

24.

What's not mine own I will not Sacrifice.

Nor will I that which did me Nothing Cost,
Pretend to Offer to the Lord of Hosts.

The Price then set, and paid, an Altar there
King David to the Lord his God did rear:
And thereon Offer'd to appease the Lord,
Burnt-Offe'rings and Peace-Offe'rings, and Implore
His gracious Pardon. And the Lord, who knew
That David's Heart was right, his Sorrow true,
Vouchsaf'd to Answer him by Fire, which came
From Heav'n, upon the Altar, in a Flame.
By which he shew'd, his Anger was appeas'd:
And He, with David's Sacrifice, was pleas'd.

Thus ceas'd the Plague, with Seventy Thousand slain
By which so many fewer did remain
To serve the King. And tho' the Lord thought
To spare the Man, that did the Sin Commit.
Yet, in his Kingly State, in part he Dy'd;
At least was wounded through his Peoples Side

For *Kings* and *Subjects* are *Cor-Relatives* ;

2 Sam.
24.

The one must Die, unless the other Lives.

Herein however, Divine Providence

quited the *Punishment* to the *Offence* :

That since, of *Numbers*, *David* fain would boast,

He of his *Number* Seve'nty Thousand lost.

C H A P. VI.

A G E now, and the *Expence* of *Blood* in War, ^{1 Kings}
To *Weakness* had reduc'd the King so far : ^{1.}

That, though against the Cold they did him Arm

With store of *Cloths*, they scarce could keep him warm,

Wherefore they for a fair young Virgin fought,

Whom, having found, unto the King they brought.

Her Name *Abishag* was, A *Shunamite*,

Who on the King should wait, both Day and Night.

She stood at hand, to serve him, all the Day ;

And, when Night came, she in his *Bosom* lay :

T 3

Whereby

¹King. Whereby her natu'ral *Heat* she did impart
Unto the King; which did refresh his Heart.
Thus led she a *Concubinary* Life:
Yet did the King not *Know* her, as a Wife.

His eldest Son, then living, was a Prince
Of an aspiring Mind; who, ever since
The Death of *Abfalom*, Himself did hold
Heir to the *Crown*: and thereupon grew bold.
His Name was *Adonijah*; which doth sound
A *Ruling Lord*: and such he would be found.
A goodly Man, for Personage, was He:
And from *Correction* had been always free.
For the King's *Lenity* to him was such,
He never had displeased Him, so much
As but to say unto Him, O my Son,
What is the Cause, Thou so, or so hast done?

He long had cast his Eye upon the *Throne*,
As *Counting*, if not *Calling* it, His own.
And Reckon'd He sustain'd no little Wrong,
In that his Father fate upon't so long.

But now, his Father's *Age*, and *feeble* State,
 Made him Resolve, He would no longer wait;
 But take *Possession* of the Royal Crown:
 Ascend the Throne, and *Thrust* his Father down.

1 Kings
 1.

In order thereunto, he did provide
 Chariots and Horsemen (for both *Guard* and *Pride*)
 And *Fifty* Men, who should before him Run.
 Like as his Brother *Absalom* had done.

Then into the *Conspiracy* he drew
Joab, his Father's General; who, he knew,
 Among the Soldie'ry great Inte'rest had;
 And to his Cause, could *Strength* and *Credit* add.
Abiathar, the Priest, He also got
 To Joyn with him; and *Consecrate* his Plot.

Both He and *Joab* had stood right before,
 When *Absalom* Rebell'd: and to Restore
 The King, they labour'd hard, unto his Crown.
 What pity 'twas they now *the Pail* kick't down.

^{1 Kings}
^{I.} *Joab*, indeed, some Colour might pretend
For his *Defection*. He might Apprehend,
(Not without Reason) since he lost his Place,
He stood but *loosly* in the Royal Grace.

But for the *Priest*, No Cause, as yet, I see;
Which might, in his Excuse, alledged be:
Unless it were what doth among such run,
An Aptness to *Adore the Rising Sun*.
David Declin'd apace; ready to Set.
Young *Adonijah* ready up to get.

And now, the *Plot* being *Ripe*, the Time at hand
Wherein he mean't All *Israel* to Command.
He made a *Royal Feast*: fat Cattle slew,
Both Sheep and Oxen. And he to it drew
His Brethren, the King's Sons (e'en eve'ry One
Of them, excepting only *Solomon*)
And with them *Joab* and *Abiathar*:
And all the Men of *Judah*, though they were
The King's own Servants: and with them too mo
Of the brave *Captains* of his Father's Host;

Who

Who, when the Wine their Spirits did inflame,
Should *Adonijah*, for their King, *proclame*.

1 Kings
1.

Just *in the Nick*, the Prophet, *Nathan*, got
An Inkling of this *Execrable Plot*:

And wisely weighing, how he might prevent
The dire Effects thereof, away he went

Unto Queen *Bath-sheba*; and her surpriz'd

With the Relation of it: then Advis'd

Her, to the King immediately to go,

And open, to the King, the Matter so,

That He the *Danger* deeply in may take;

And, to prevent it, due Provision make.

And, added he, whilst thou yet speaking art

Unto the King, I'll come, and take thy part.

Then Her instructing, How she should begin

The Matter; He went off: and she went in.

Come to the Presence of the King, she Bow'd

(After such Manner as was then allow'd)

And, being by the King Ask't, What she would?

She, in such Terms as these, her Bus'ness told.

'Thou

¹ Kings
1.

‘Thou didst, my Lord, unto thine Handmaid swear,
‘By the Almighty (who doth Witness bear)
‘That, after thee, thy Servant *Solomon*
‘Should Reign, and sit upon his Father’s Throne,
‘Yet now, behold, doth *Adonijah* Reign.
‘And he hath Oxen, and fat Cattle, slain
‘In great abundance, and a Feast hath made:
‘To which thy Sons, O King, are all *betray’d*,
‘That they may *own his Title* (all but one,
‘Who is left out, thy Servant *Solomon*)
‘But, upon thee, my Lord O King, the Eyes
‘Of *Isra’el* are; that Thou, before Thou dies,
‘Should’st plainly tell them *Who*, when thou art gone
‘Shall thee *succeed*, and sit upon thy Throne.
‘Which, if to do, my Lord the King should fail,
‘And *Adonijah’s Treason* should prevail:
‘When Thou, my Lord, shalt with thy Fathers sleep
‘(At thought whereof I cannot choose but weep)
‘It then shall come to pass, *Offenders* We,
‘I and my Son, shall then reputed be.

Wh

While she yet spake, the Prophet *Nathan* came 1 Kings
1.
Into the *Anti-chamber*; and, his Name
Sent in, he did for *quick* Admittance sue:
And, being introduc't, the Queen withdrew.

Then to the King the Prophet (having paid
The usual *Reverence* in those Times made)
Thus spake; ' My Lord, O King, Dost thou ordain
That *Adonijah*, after thee, shall Reign?
Or hast Thou said, When I to Rest am gone?
I will that He shall sit upon my Throne?
For He, this Day, hath made a Royal Feast,
And to it hath Invited many a Guest;
All the King's Sons (Except Prince *Solomon*)
Unto his Feast, at his Request, are gon.
Joab too, and the *Captains* of the Host,
He doth *Careß*; not sparing any Cost.
Nor is *Abiathar*, the *Priest*, the Least
Among his Guests; to *Bless the Traite'rous Feast*.
All whom that he may richly Entertain,
He hath abundance of fat Cattle slain.

' They

^{1 Kings} 1. ' They Eat, Drink, Sing, loud Acclamations give;
' Crying, *Long may King Adonijah live.*

' But *me* thy Servant, and' thy *better* Son
' (Best of thy Sons) the brave Prince *Solomon*,
' He hath not Call'd, Nor *Zadok*, the good Priest,
' Nor yet *Benajah*, to his treacherous Feast.
' Is this thing, by my Lord's Appointment done,
' And thou hast not it to thy Servant shown?
' Or hath aspiring *Adonijah* chose
' This time, to *seize the Crown*, and *thee Depose*?

He stopt. But what had been already said,
On the King's Mind a *deep* Impression made.
He had not yet the *sad* Effects forgot,
Of his Son *Absalom's* disloyal Plot;
How *hard* it with him went; what *Dangers* He
Was in; How he was fain for's Life to *flee*:
Which now (so weak he was) He could not do
But must, whate'er befell him, undergo.
He therefore, to this Sore, resolv'd to' apply
A *speedy*, and *effectual* Remedy.

Go, call me *Bath-sheba*, said He, The Dame, ^{1 Kings}
Upon the Call, incontinently came, _{1.}
And stood before him (*Nathan* out was gone,
Leaving the King and *Bath-sheba* alone,)
To whom the King thus Spake (and, with an *Oath*
Did what he spake Confirm, between them both.)

‘ As the Lord lives, who me from all Distress
‘ (Which I with humble Heart, to Him Confess)
‘ Redeemed hath; E’en as to thee before,
‘ By the Lord God of *Israel* I swore,
‘ Assuring thee that *Solomon*, thy Son,
‘ Should me succeed, and sit upon my Throne:
‘ That will I certainly Perform this Day;
‘ Thine Eye shall see it done, without delay.

The *Queen*, most humble Reve’rence having made,
Only, *Long live my Lord King David*, said.
By which, we may suppose, she wish’d that He
Might still Reign on; and be from Troubles free.

But

1 Kings
1.

But He, upon the Matter more intent,
For *Zadok*, *Nathan* and *Benajah* sent.
To whom he gave in Charge, that they should strait
Take of his Servants, both for *Strength* and *State*,
Sufficient Numbers; and should Cause his Son
(The Lord's Belov'd, *Jedidiah*) *Solomon*,
On the King's Mule, in Royal Pomp, to ride
(The *Priest* and *Prophet* walking by his Side,
With the King's *Guards* before him and Behind,
And all the People, that were well-inclin'd)
Until they came to *Gihon*, a small Stream,
Which did the Court part from *Jerusalem*.
Let *Zadok* there, and *Nathan*, Him Anoint
King over *Isra'el*: for Him I appoint,
Said *David*, in my stead, upon my Throne
To sit; and henceforth take it for his own.

And when he is Anointed, forthwith sound
The Trumpet, and let all the People round,
With joyful Acclamations, Call upon
The Lord, and say, God save King *Solomon*.

The

Then bring him up, that He, as I ordain,
May over *Israel* and *Judah* Reign. 1 Kings
1.

Amen, Reply'd *Benajah*: and, O may
The Lord God of my Lord so also say.
As with my Lord the King, the Lord hath been,
So may he too with *Solomon* be seen:
And may *his* Throne transcend *thy* Throne as far,
As other Thrones to thine *Inferior* are,

This said, Away they *All* together go,
Adok the Priest, *Nathan* the Prophet too;
Captain *Benajah*, with the King's *Life-Guard*,
The *Cherethites* and *Pelethites*, prepar'd
The King's Command to Execute: and Those
To slay, who should them in the Work oppose.

The Priest, out of the Tabernacle, took
An *Horn of Oyl*; and down to *Gihon-Brook*
They lead Prince *Solomon*, in Royal State:
Priest, Prophet, People gladly on him wait.

Come

^{1 Kings}
^{1.} Come to the Place, the *Priest* upon his Head,
From out his *Horn*, the Sacred *Oyl* did shed.
The Trumpet then was blown, and thereupon
The People Cry'd, *God save King Solomon*.
Then were all *Throats* distended; and the sound
Of *Trumpets* was, by that of *Voices*, drown'd.
Obstrep'rous Noises through the Air did Break;
And their *transporting* Joys did loudly speak.
Such *Acclamations* made! Such *Shouts* were giv'n!
As seem'd to Rend the *Earth*, and Pierce the *Heav'n*!

C H A P. VII.

BY this time *Adonijah*, and the Rest
Who had been Entertained at his Feast,
Having done Eating, ready were to bring
Him forth in publick, to *Proclame him King*;
Buoy'd up with Confidence of the Success,
Having a *Priest* with them, the Work to Bless.

And the old Gene'ral, Joab, at their Head,
The Military Forces up to lead.

1 Kings
1.

When, on a suddain, the rebounding Cries,
Of Solomon's Attendance, them surprize.

They heard, and started: and the more they Hear,
The more they're with Amazement struck, and Fear.

What, said old Joab (when he heard the Sound
Of Trumpets, & the Noise, which that Noise drown'd)

May we suppose the Cause of this to be?

The City in an Uproar seems to me.

While he yet spake, Came One unto the Door
Who had been proling out, some time before)

Jonathan (who was Son unto the Priest
Ahithar, of Traytors not the least)

Who having been abroad upon the Scout,
Had seen the Work the City was about.

Him Adonijah seeing, said Come in,
And tell us what the Matter is. Begin:
For thou a Man of noted Valour art,
And usu'ally Good Tidings dost impart

U

Say,

^{1 Kings} Say, What's the Bus'ness? ' Ah, alas! said He,
^{1.} ' My *Tidings* now will *not* be *Good* to thee,
' For verily, Our Lord King *David* now
' Hath *Solomon* made King. Then told him How
Where and by Whom, it managed had been ;
And what, relating to't, he 'had Heard or seen.
Adding, the People's *Joy*, for their New King,
They so *Exprest*, as made the *City Ring*.
And that the *Noise* is, which ye now have heard :
The Cause of which is justly to be fear'd.
For *Solomon* now on the Throne doth sit ;
And doth to eve'ry one what he thinks fit.

At this *Report* the *Guests* were all afraid,
And *slipt away* : not one amongst them staid
With *Adonijah*. He, as well he might,
Deserted thus, fled, in a *griev'ous Fright*,
Unto the *Altar* : of its *Horns* Caught hold,
Hoping that *Sacred Place* now (as of old
It had to others done) might him protect,
At least till he might other Means project.

His *Pardon* to obtain. This being laid
Before King *Solomon*; He thereon said,
If He Himself a worthy Man will shew,
There shall, for this, no Punishment ensue.
But if hereafter, He again shall try
Ill *Practices* against me, He shall die.

1 Kings
1.

Then *Solomon* some sending, who should bring
Him, from the Altar, down unto the King;
He came, and to the King himself did Bow,
Which shew'd, he did his *Sove'reignty* allow.
The King dismissing him, this only said,
Go to thy House: Do well; and be'n't afraid.

This gentle Dealing the old King approv'd,
No doubt; who *Adonijah* greatly lov'd:
And therefore, probably, was glad to see,
In his *Successor*, so much *Lenity*.
Which made him (when his *Courtiers* came, to Wait
Upon him, and, with Joy, Congratulate
This great Delive'rance) bow himself, and say,
'Blest be the Lord, e'en *Isra'el's* God, this Day;
U 2 ' Who,

¹*Kings*
 1. Who, me yet living, hath vouchsafed One
 ‘ Of mine own Sons, to sit upon my Throne.
 The Sense whereof did make this Godly King,
 Unto the Lord, his *Nunc dimittis* sing.

¹*Kings*
 2. And now, the Days of *David* drawing nigh,
 Wherein, by Course of Nature, he should dy:
 He of King *Solomon* his Leave did take;
 And unto him he thus, at Parting, spake.

‘ *I go the Way of all the Earth* (which is,
 Of Dying, a well known *Periphrasis*)
 ‘ *Be therefore strong, and shew thy self a Man,*
 ‘ That Thou before the Lord thy God mayst stand
 And keep his *Charge* sincerely, all thy Days,
 ‘ To walk uprightly in his Sacred Ways;
 ‘ To keep his *Statutes*; His *Commands* to do;
 ‘ *Judgments* Observe, and *Testimonies* too.
 ‘ That in whate’er thine Hand doth undertake,
 ‘ Thou mayst the Lord to thee *Propitious* make

‘ Th

‘ Then will the Lord Confirm his Word, which He ^{1 Kings}
‘ Most graciously did speak concerning me: _{2.}
‘ When He, some Years ago, was pleas’d to say * ^{* 2 Sam.}
‘ If thine shall take good heed unto their Way, _{7. 12.}
‘ With all their Heart, and all their Soul to Walk
‘ In Truth before me (and not *Justice* baulk)
‘ Then shalt thou never want a Godly Son,
‘ To sit upon the Israelitish Throne.

This said, He *Solomon* Instruction gave
How He, hereafter, should himself Behave
To some, who had from their *Allegiance* swerv’d:
And Others, who of him had well deserv’d.
Then, having Liv’d *Seventy* Years, and Reign’d
Forty of them; and lasting Glory gain’d:
He with his Fathers *slept*, and was interr’d
In his own City, which he most preferr’d;
And which, to honour him, thenceforth became,
The *Royal Sepulcher* for Men of Fame.

And

And now my *Muse*, might she so high presume,
Would write this *Epitaph* upon his *Tomb*.

E P I T A P H.

HERE lies King David, whose sharp Sword did quell
The fiercest Enemies of Israel.

Here the Sweet Singer lies, whose various State,
The Psalms by him Composed, do relate.

Here lies the Man, who (for the greatest part)
Did walk according to the Lord's own Heart.

His Body in the Grave below doth Rest:

His Spirit lives above, among the Blest.

T H E E N D.



E R R A T A.

PAGE 12. line 10. read *against*. p. 51. to 56. Marg. r. 1 Sam. 20. p. 90. l. 17. f. *without*, r. *with what*. p. 93. l. 7. r. *Resolve*. p. 106. l. 12. f. *own*, r. *whole*. p. 186. l. 1, & 186. l. 5. r. *Princess*. p. 188. l. 11. dele the *Comma*. p. 219. l. 3. r. *Gilead*. p. 222. l. 16. r. *decide*. p. 267. l. 13. Marg. r. Deut. 20. 10.

ell

7-8
18
Gila